tales of the
REALM
1
OCT
$2.95
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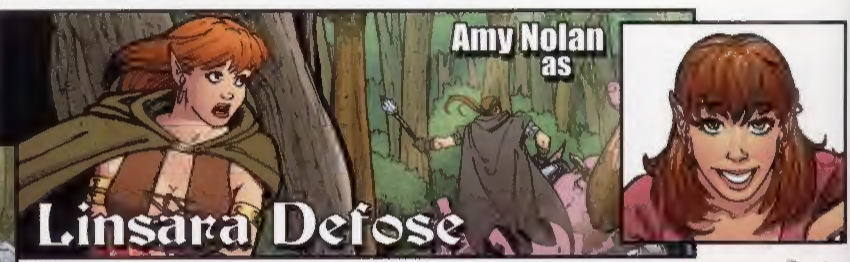
KIRKMAN
TYREE
GARCIA
LITHIUM PRO

tales of the REALM™

starring...



What if we rode dragons to work every day? What if myth and fantasy were real? The Realm is full of the bustle and bustle of life of the Earth as it is today, with a little twist... Dragons and ogres, sword and sorcery are the norms in The Realm, seamlessly blended with our familiar human counterparts. Follow the stars of "Tales of the Realm," the Realm's hit TV series, as they strive to make it big in the industry. What adventures await them as they move toward the big screen? Find out in...

The Realm!

Robert Kirkman - story

Matt Tyree - art

Mike Garcia - colors

Lithium Pro - letters

Val Staples
Matt Tyree
Jonboy Meyers
Leanne Shaw

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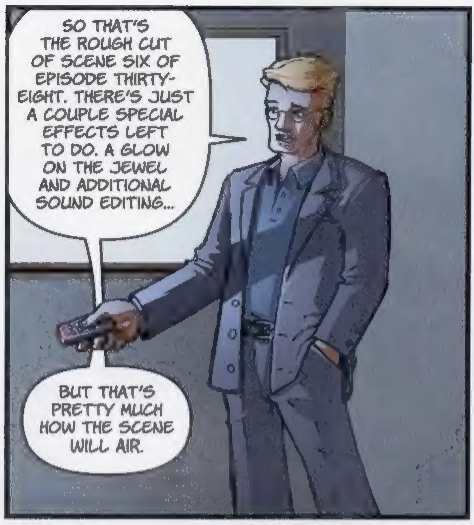
ROOOOOARGH!
YIKES!!
CHOOOOM!

WHEW!
THAT WAS CLOSE!
=LILP=
SPOKE TOO SOON!
RAARGH!

THAT'S MY PAL YOU'RE TRYING TO KILL!
THOK!
THANKS FOR THE SAVE, FLYNN.
AAARRG!
WATCH IT, PAL!
I'M HERE TO HELP!!
ROOOOAARR!
SHARAAAASH!

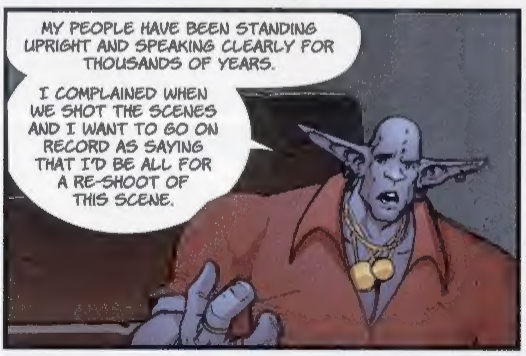
STOP PLAYING AROUND, BOYS! I'VE GOT IT!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE.
RRRRRRH!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE WHILE HE'S STUNNED.
THANKS FOR THE ASSIST ON THIS ONE, GUYS.
DON'T SWEAT IT, LINSARA.

TRUST ME, THE ONLY REASON WE'RE HELPING YOU STEAL IT IS BECAUSE THAT JEWEL IS GOING TO SAVE MY FATHER'S LIFE.
ONCE ITS POWER HAS HEALED HIM, WE'RE GOING TO GIVE IT BACK TO THE TROLL.


SO THAT'S THE ROUGH CUT OF SCENE SIX OF EPISODE THIRTY-EIGHT. THERE'S JUST A COUPLE SPECIAL EFFECTS LEFT TO DO. A GLOW ON THE JEWEL AND ADDITIONAL SOUND EDITING...
BUT THAT'S PRETTY MUCH HOW THE SCENE WILL AIR.

DO YOU HAVE TO USE THE SCENE WHERE I SAY THE BIT ABOUT MY FATHER?
I LIKE THE VERSION WHERE I SAY IT LATER A LOT BETTER.

WE THOUGHT THAT THIS SCENE MADE THE EPISODE FLOW BETTER.
I AGREE.
I'M UNDER CONTRACT, AND QUITE FRANKLY, I NEED THE MONEY, BUT I WANT TO GO ON RECORD AS SAYING I DO NOT APPRECIATE THIS RACIST PORTRAYAL OF TROLLS.


MY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN STANDING UPRIGHT AND SPEAKING CLEARLY FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.
I COMPLAINED WHEN WE SHOT THE SCENES AND I WANT TO GO ON RECORD AS SAYING THAT I'D BE ALL FOR A RE-SHOOT OF THIS SCENE.

BRUCE, YOUR OPINION IS A WELL-DOCUMENTED MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD.
:SIGH:
NOW, AS LONG AS NO ONE ELSE HAS ANY COMPLAINTS, WE CAN WRAP THIS MEETING UP AND GO TO LUNCH.

CALLOUS
EH?
HEY, THOMAS, WAIT UP!
BATBAT
CALLOUS
DID YOU HAPPEN TO READ NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPT YET? WE GO TO ATLANTIS! WE'RE GOING TO BE UNDERWATER FOR THE ENTIRE WEEK! I'M NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT AT ALL!
UNLESS WE'RE SHOOTING ON LOCATION... I'VE NEVER BEEN TO ATLANTIS.
I DON'T THINK SHOOTING ON LOCATION IN ATLANTIS IS IN OUR BUDGET THIS LATE IN THE SEASON. I HEAR WE'RE GOING TO BE USING THE SAME TANK WE USED IN THE SEA MONSTER TWO-PARTER LAST YEAR.
NO KIDDING? THEY KEPT THAT THING?
WE FELL A FEW POINTS THIS SEASON. WE'RE STILL IN THE TOP FIVE, BUT THE PRODUCERS ARE DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO CUT CORNERS.
I'M SURE OUR HEFTY SALARIES AREN'T HELPING.
YOU WANT TO CONTINUE THIS OVER SOME LUNCH? I'M STARVING.
SURE, MAN I--
WE'D LOVE TO!
SURE, AMY. YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME TO TAG ALONG...

YOU GUYS WANT TO HIT THE PUB JUST UP THE STREET? WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO CATCH A TAXI THAT WAY.
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.
5
5
the DWARF Club
PV
Tales of the Realm
stars talk of life in their seas
PV GUIDE
From Hell series moves to the big screen
DRACH!
LINSARA!
FLYNN!
CAN I GET YOUR AUTOGRAPH?
WHY IS MY NAME ALWAYS LAST?

DID JAMES TELL YOU WHAT WE GET TO DO NEXT WEEK?
OH, GOD... WHAT? I HAVEN'T EVEN LOOKED AT THE SCRIPT YET.
TRIP TO ATLANTIS, FILMED IN THE SEA MONSTER TANK FROM LAST SEASON.
THAT THING AGAIN?! I HAD TO TAKE THREE SHOWERS A NIGHT TO GET THAT SLIMY WATER OFF ME.
AND THOSE UNDERWATER BREATHING SPELLS NEVER COMPLETELY WORK! I ALMOST DIED LAST YEAR!
WE'RE POPULAR T.V. STARS! WHY DO WE HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS?
YOU SAID IT RIGHT THERE... T.V. STARS. WE GET PAID A FRACTION OF WHAT MOVIE STARS GET, AND WE HAVE TO WORK TEN TIMES AS HARD.
WE'RE HERE TO GET CRAPPED ON.
THAT REALLY PISSES ME OFF... IT'S LIKE NO MATTER HOW POPULAR WE ARE, WE'LL ALWAYS JUST BE WORKING IN TELEVISION!
I MEAN, WE'RE WRAPPING UP OUR SEVENTH SEASON! WE SHOULD ALL BE DOING MOVIES BY NOW!
NO KIDDING.
YEAH, IT'S JUST NOT FAIR.

Later that day
MR. DANBEC? MR. FLOGGBLATT WILL SEE YOU NOW.
OH... UM... THANKS
COME IN... SIT DOWN.
WHY THE SUDDEN NEED FOR THE FACE-TO-FACE, MY FRIEND?
WANT TO SQUEEZE MORE MONEY OUT OF YOUR PRODUCERS?
WELL, TO JUMP RIGHT TO THE POINT... I'M FIRING YOU.
WHAT??!
I'VE BEEN ON ONE OF THE HIGHEST RATED TELEVISION SHOWS FOR SEVEN YEARS, AND YOU HAVE YET TO GET ME ONE LEAD PART IN A MOVIE.
QUITE FRANKLY, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DOING YOUR JOB.

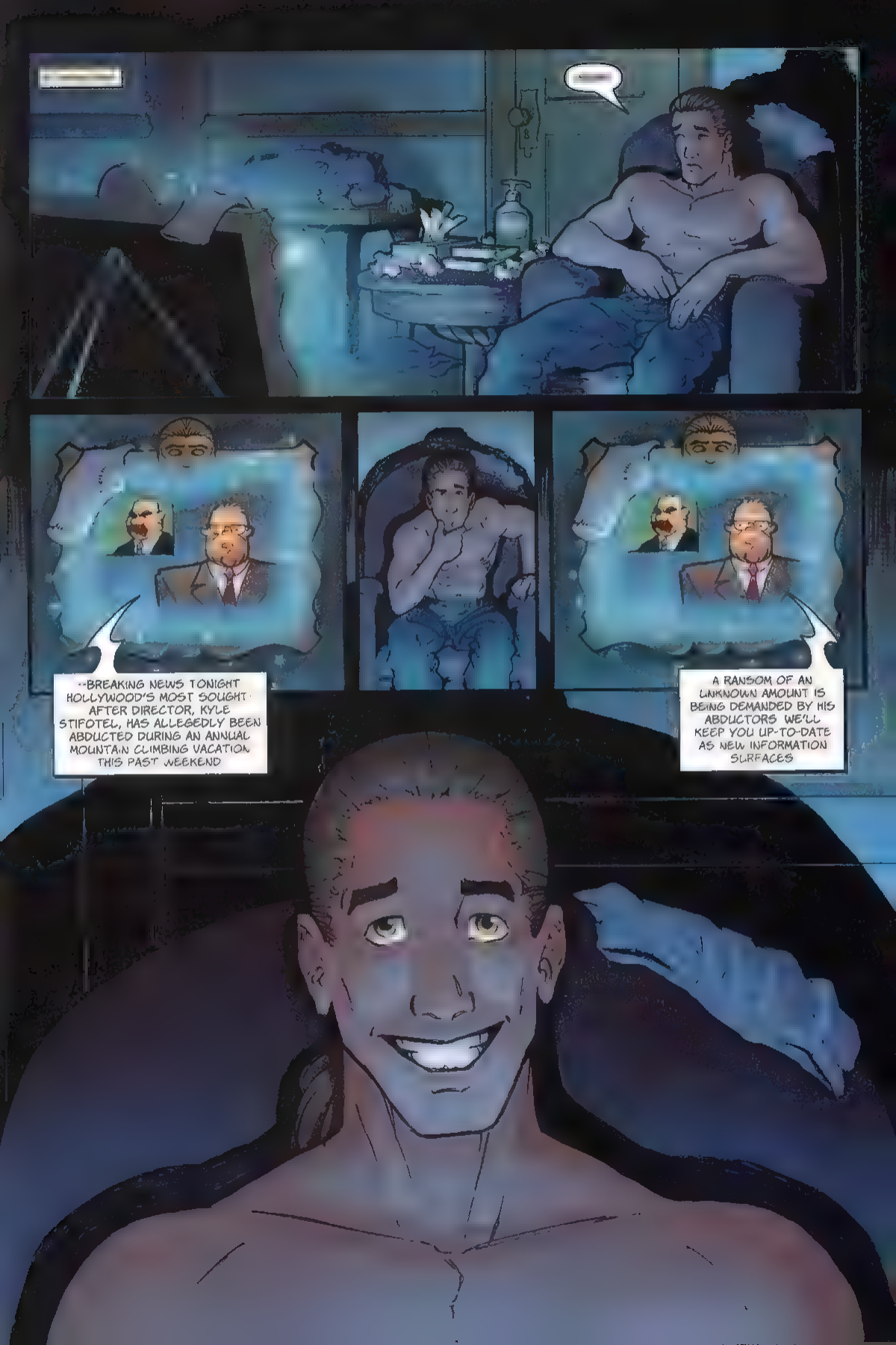
YOU DARE??!!
NOBODY FIRES ME! NOT EVEN YOU!!
CLANK
RAH!!

FWUMP!
THAT'LL TEACH YOU TO FIRE ME.
QUILTS
HE TOOK THAT WELL...

HEY, I PICKED UP SOME STUFF FOR DINNER.
GREAT! I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE..I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS!
OH, WOW WHAT IS IT?
WELL, LET'S JUST SAY I'M GOING TO HAVE AN EASIER TIME HELPING WITH THE RENT FROM NOW ON...
DID YOU GET MORE COMMERCIAL WORK..?
A WALK-ON TV PART? WHAT DID YOU GET?
I'M THE LEADING LADY IN THE NEW FIRE MONGER MOVIE!
MOVIE?

DEMONS
NIGHT CLUB
JR
OH YEAH. I'M IN "THE BIZ"
OH, REALLY?
OH, YEAH. I'M A BIG LONELY FAMOUS GUY... LOOKING FOR LOVE.
HOW INTERESTING. WHAT IS IT THAT YOU DO? YOUR FACE LOOKS VERY FAMILIAR
I'M ONE OF THE LEAD ACTORS ON TALES OF THE REALM.
OH.. TELEVISION, HUH? I HAD A T.V. STAR LAST NIGHT. I'M LOOKING FOR A MOVIE STAR TONIGHT.
WHAT?

2 SEXY
2 SEXY
2 SEXY
2 SEXY
FINE, GO AHEAD AND LEAVE!!
I'LL BE AT HOME IN THIRTY MINUTES WITH A CHICK TEN TIMES AS HOT AS YOU!!!

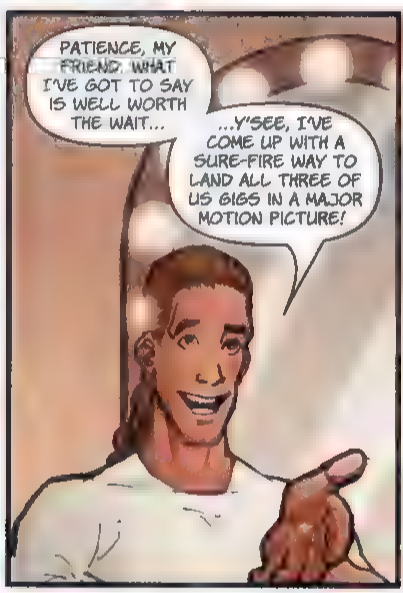

--BREAKING NEWS TONIGHT HOLLYWOOD'S MOST SOUGHT AFTER DIRECTOR, KYLE STIFOTEL, HAS ALLEGEDLY BEEN ABDUCTED DURING AN ANNUAL MOUNTAIN CLIMBING VACATION THIS PAST WEEKEND
A RANSOM OF AN UNKNOWN AMOUNT IS BEING DEMANDED BY HIS ABDUCTORS WE'LL KEEP YOU UP-TO-DATE AS NEW INFORMATION SURFACES

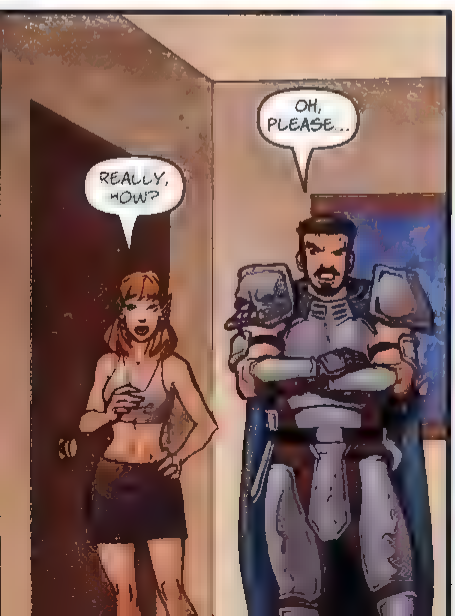
WASN'T TOO TOUGH ON YOU, WAS I BILL?
NAH, MAN YOU'RE FINE
THOMAS, CAN YOU GRAB AMY AND MEET ME IN MY DRESSING ROOM?
SURE WHAT'S GOING ON?
I WANT TO TELL YOU BOTH AT THE SAME TIME I'LL SEE YOU THERE IN A MINUTE

WOW, I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER BEEN IN HERE.

RIIIGHT. NO NEED TO LIE JUST BECAUSE THOMAS IS HERE WITH US.

WHATEVER, JAMES. WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO TELL US? I HAVEN'T GOT ALL DAY.


PATIENCE, MY FRIEND. WHAT I'VE GOT TO SAY IS WELL WORTH THE WAIT...
...Y'SEE, I'VE COME UP WITH A SURE-FIRE WAY TO LAND ALL THREE OF US GIGS IN A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE!


OH, PLEASE...
REALLY. HOW?

DON'T BE SO SKEPTICAL... AT LEAST UNTIL YOU'VE HEARD ME OUT.
DID YOU GUYS HEAR ABOUT THE KYLE STIFOTEL SITUATION?
HOW HE GOT ABDUCTED WHILE ON VACATION AND IS NOW BEING RANSOMED?

YEAH, WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH US?

WE'RE GOING TO FLY TO THE MOUNTAINS WHERE HE WAS ABDUCTED... AND RESCUE HIM.
I DON'T KNOW...
THAT'S THE STUPIDEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD.
DON'T WRITE THIS OFF SO QUICK, GUYS. IT'S A SURE-FIRE PLAN.
IF WE RESCUE HIM, HE'S GOING TO BE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL. WE WILL HAVE SAVED HIS LIFE! WE'RE DAMN GOOD ACTORS, HOW DO YOU THINK HE COULD REPAY US?
THAT'S RIGHT! LEAD ROLES IN HIS NEXT MOVIE!
YOU KNOW WE NEED THIS, GUYS! WE'VE BEEN TRAINED TO FIGHT ON CAMERA; WE CAN DO IT IN REAL LIFE IF WE TRY. THIS COULD BE OUR LAST CHANCE!
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT, AND I FOR ONE AM NOT INTERESTED IN RISKING MY LIFE FOR SOMETHING THIS UNCERTAIN.
WE ARE TELEVISION STARS, WE ARE NOT CRUSADERS, WE WIN OUR FIGHTS BECAUSE IT'S IN THE SCRIPT THAT WE WIN. THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD DO THAT IN REAL LIFE.
BESIDES, THIS IS A TOP RATED SHOW. THE ONLY THING THAT COULD GET IT CANCELLED IS IF WE LEFT. AS MUCH AS I KNOW WE ALL DESIRE TO BE IN THE MOVIES, WE'VE GOT TO STOP AND REALIZE HOW GOOD WE HAVE IT NOW.
WE'VE GOT A PAYCHECK COMING TO US EVERY WEEK. DO YOU WANT TO RISK THAT?
OH, BLAST IT ALL!
YOU'RE RIGHT, THOMAS. YOU'RE ALWAYS RIGHT.
IT COULD HAVE WORKED THOUGH

SORRY I'M LATE
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR APOLOGIES JUST GET INTO POSITION.
HEY, PAL. LET'S BE REAL HERE. I GOT YOU THIS JOB... I CAN TAKE IT AWAY.
I WAS BUSY DEAL WITH IT
HEY, HEY... TAKE IT EASY, TOM. NO NEED TO GET UPSET.
IT'S JUST THAT WE'VE GOT A LOT TO GET SHOT TODAY...
TOM! HEY, I NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOU IN MY OFFICE REAL QUICK.
SURE, LET'S GO
LATER MAN

PLEASE, SIT
THIS SN'T BAD NEWS, I HOPE
NO, OF COURSE NOT. WELL, NOT FOR YOU AT LEAST...
A LOT OF NASTY STUFF IS GOING ON WITH THE TOP BRASS OF THE STUDIO. DO YOU REMEMBER OUR RATHER VOCAL TROLL FROM LAST WEEK'S EPISODE?
HE'S SUING.
NOW, THIS SHOW MAKES A LOT OF MONEY.. BUT NOT *THAT* MUCH MONEY SO WE'VE COME TO A RATHER ODD SETTLEMENT... SOMETHING THAT YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT GOING TO BE TOO HAPPY WITH.
WE'RE FIRING AMY AND JAMES AND REPLACING THEIR CHARACTERS WITH OUR VOCAL TROLL. THEY WANT TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CUT BACK ON SOME PAYROLL, TOO. LAST WEEK'S EPISODE IS GOING TO BE RE-SHOT AND TURNED INTO THE SEASON-ENDING CLIFFHANGER, WITH FLYNN AND LINSARA DYING, AND YOU TEAMING UP WITH OUR TROLL FRIEND TO CATCH THEIR KILLER.
THE STUDIO ASSURES ME THAT THEY CONSIDER YOU TO BE THE STAR OF THIS SHOW AND THAT YOUR POSITION IS SECURE, BUT YOUR FRIENDS HAVE TO GO. WE'LL BE SENDING THEM NOTICE BY THE END OF THIS WEEK. I'D APPRECIATE IF YOU DIDN'T TELL THEM.
YEAH. OKAY.

I KNEW YOU'D SEE MY SIDE OF THINGS
ALL I KNOW IS THAT I'VE GOT A ROOMMATE THAT I CAN USUALLY PUSH AROUND BECAUSE SHE CAN'T COVER ALL THE RENT. NOW SHE'S GOT A PART IN A MOVIE AND IS PUTTING MY INCOME TO SHAME... WELL... AT LEAST MATCHING IT.
IF THERE'S A CHANCE WE CAN GET A MOVIE PART OUT OF THIS... I'M ALL FOR IT.
NOW WE JUST NEED TO GET THOMAS TO COME AROUND. THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD PULL THIS OFF WITHOUT HIM.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM. HE'S FED UP WITH THIS T.V. STUFF JUST AS MUCH AS WE ARE. I HEAR HE FIRED HIS MANAGER THE OTHER DAY FOR NOT GETTING HIM ANY MOVIE PARTS
REALLY? WELL, JUST A LITTLE MORE NEEDLING AND I'M SURE I CAN TALK HIM INTO IT.
C'MON, GUYS...

LET'S HURRY UP AND FINISH THIS LUNCH.
WE'VE GOT A DIRECTOR TO SAVE!
THAT WAS EASY .

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- story
Matt Tyree
- art
Mike Garcia
- colors
Lithium Pro
- letters

Last time...

It's not enough to have a successful, long running, dramatic television show in Hollywood. If you're not doing movies, you're nobody. Television is the red-headed stepchild of the industry. For the stars of "Tales of the Realm" this is a painful daily reminder that they have yet to reach the top.

After seven seasons of "Tales of the Realm" they have watched friends and colleagues make the jump from television to film... it's an ever increasingly bitter pill to swallow. So when they find out that Kyle Stiftel, one of the most popular directors in Hollywood has been abducted, a hair-brained scheme is cooked up and a quest is set forth. If they rescue Kyle Stiftel he'll HAVE to put them in his movies.

It's movies or bust for our heroes!

AND NOW, THE CONTINUATION OF TALES OF THE REALM...

Val Staples
writer/artist
Matt Tyree
art director
Leanne Shaw
editor

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HI, THIS IS THOMAS. I'M HERE, BUT I'M DUCKING SOMEONE'S CALL. LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE CHIME. IF I DON'T CALL BACK... IT'S YOU.
DING DONG
HEY, THOMAS.. IT'S YOUR OLD PAL, MITCH... YOU KNOW... YOUR PRODUCER!! WE'RE ON THE SET HERE... RE-SHOOTING LAST WEEK'S EPISODE WITH THE NEW DEATH SCENES, AND THERE'S SOMETHING MISSING...
...YOU!
ALSO... WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO CALL JAMES AND AMY TO GET THEM TO COME IN FOR THE RE-SHOOTING. THEY STILL DON'T KNOW THEY'VE BEEN WRITTEN OUT OF THE SHOW. SEEMS KIND OF STRANGE THAT ALL THREE OF YOU WOULD BE UNREACHABLE ON THE SAME DAY, HUH..? IT GOT ME THINKING.
I KNOW AMY AND JAMES ARE YOUR FRIENDS... AND I'M SURE YOU'RE NOT HAPPY THAT WE'RE WRITING THEM OUT OF THE SHOW... BUT, KID...
...THAT'S BUSINESS.
IF YOU DECIDED TO TELL THEM AHEAD OF TIME ABOUT THEIR TERMINATION... OR ARE THINKING OF SOME KIND OF SCHEME TO FORCE US TO USE THE VERSION OF THE EPISODE THAT IS ALREADY COMPLETED.. IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK.
WE'VE ALREADY DECIDED ON THIS, LEGAL HAS ALREADY APPROVED IT, AND OUR LAWSUIT WITH OUR TROLL FRIEND HAS PUT A LOT OF HEAT ON THE HIGHER UPS... THIS DECISION IS FINAL.
I'M TELLING YOU RIGHT NOW AS A FRIEND... YOU'RE ONLY HURTING YOUR CAREER BY DOING THIS. I KNOW SOMETHING IS GOING ON BETWEEN YOU THREE. AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE WILL START THE SHOW OVER WITH A COMPLETELY NEW CAST IT'S BEEN DONE BEFORE.. WE CAN DO IT AGAIN.

UP YOURS, MITCH.
CENSORED
YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.. CALL ME.

Rod's U-Store-It
JEEZ.. IT'S ABOUT TIME. IS THOMAS WITH YOU?
NO... I FIGURED HE'D ALREADY BE HERE HE HASN'T SHOWN UP YET?
NO I HOPE HE HASN'T BACKED OUT ON US. THAT'S THE LAST THING WE NEED. OUR STAR POWER AS A GROUP IS NOTHING WHEN HE'S NOT WITH US
HEY! MY ACTION FIGURE SOLD ALMOST AS MANY UNITS AS HIS HE'S NOT THAT MUCH MORE POPULAR THAN US.
BESIDES I DON'T THINK TOM WOULD DO THAT HE'S THE ONE THAT PUT ALL THIS IN MOTION... HE'S BEEN DEAD SET ON IT SINCE YESTERDAY
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO CHANGE HIS MIND, BUT I SURE AM GLAD IT HAPPENED

THOMAS! FINALLY.. WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
I HAD TO PUT A CALL IN TO THE STUDIO CONFIRMING THAT WE WERE ON LEAVE FOR THE REST OF THE MONTH. I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE WE WOULDN'T BE NEEDED FOR ANY RE-SHOOTS ON ANY SCENES
GOOD MOVE. IF WE CAN AVOID IT I'D REALLY NOT LIKE TO RISK LOSING THE JOB WE'VE GOT TO GET A JOB WE DON'T HAVE
YEAH... OF COURSE...
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?
I PICKED UP SOME WEAPONS FOR THE TRIP. BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY, YOU KNOW...
WEAPONS? WE DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO USE THOSE WITHOUT PROPER CHOREOGRAPHY! WE'LL ONLY HURT OURSELVES WITH THOSE
WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THESE ABDUCTORS. IF WE'RE SUPPOSED TO SAVE THIS DIRECTOR FROM THEM, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT US TO DO? AUTOGRAPH THEM TO DEATH?
I BROUGHT ALONG THIS SPELL BOOK. I ALREADY KNOW A FEW, BUT I'M GOING TO BONE UP ON THEM WHILE WE'RE IN THE AIR.
WE NEED TO BE PREPARED FOR *ANYTHING*, THOMAS
THIS IS THE STUPIDEST THING I'VE EVER DONE.
C'MON. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE WE MISS OUR FLIGHT.

THIS IS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE!!
I'M SORRY. I'VE PLACED ALL THE CALLS I CAN. WE'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO SHOOT AROUND HIM. WE'LL JUST ADD DRACH IN MAGICALLY LATER
OH, SO INSTEAD OF ACTING WITH A COLLEAGUE I GET TO RUN LINES TO A BLUE POLE?! THAT'S NOT HOW I OPERATE. I DEMAND YOU GET THOMAS ON THIS SET NOW!
PLEASE CALM DOWN, WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN
WELL, THEN THAT'S JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH! DO I NEED TO GET MY LAWYERS INVOLVED AGAIN?
SCREW THIS. I NEED A CHARCOALETTE

DRAGON FLIGHT IS NOT YOUR RIGHT!
OH, BROTHER.
WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO EXPLOIT THESE BEAUTIFUL CREATURES?!?
LOOK, LADY...!
JAMES— DON'T!
JUST BECAUSE THEY WON'T LET YOU COOK AND EAT THEM DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD TRY TO KEEP US FROM RIDING ON THEM!
BASTARD!!
POW!!!

Dragon Fight is not your RIGHT!
Save the DRAGONS!
HOW DARE YOU!!!
FWUMP!
OOOF!!
STOP!
FWAP!
JEEZ, LADY, STOP IT! ARE YOU CRAZY?!
GAK!
JUST WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE, PEOPLE?
54

WE WERE JUST TRYING TO GET TO THE TERMINAL ON TIME AND THAT WOMAN ATTACKED HIM. HE MAY HAVE INSTIGATED IT A LITTLE, BUT SHE JUST STARTED BEATING ON HIM... IT WAS REALLY QUITE SUDDEN.
WELL, NOBODY SEEMS TO BE HURT TOO BAD, SO UNLESS YOU PEOPLE WANT TO PRESS CHARGES YOU CAN GO ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS.
A LOT OF HELP *YOU'RE* GOING TO BE ON THIS TRIP.
HEY... THAT WOMAN *MUST* BE HALF OGRE OR SOMETHING... I MEAN, LOOK AT THE SIZE OF HER!
PART *OGRE?!! I'LL KILL YOU!!*
WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT *OGRES?!?!*
WE BETTER NOT MISS OUR FLIGHT
AT LEAST I COULD RUN HOME AND SHOWER REAL QUICK IF THAT DID HAPPEN
LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE... THAT'S THE CLOSEST YOU'VE BEEN TO A WOMAN IN MONTHS.
...TRUE

THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING. WE'VE GOT A HANGNAIL IN ONE OF OUR TALONS THAT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH BEFORE TAKEOFF.
THERE WILL BE A SLIGHT DELAY, BUT I'M SURE THAT NONE OF YOU WANT TO BE STRAPPED TO AN IRRITABLE DRAGON AT TEN THOUSAND FEET
THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR PATIENCE.
THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING. EVERYTHING HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF AND WE WILL BE UNDERWAY SHORTLY SORRY ABOUT THE DELAY, AND THANK YOU FOR WAITING

WHOEVER YOU ARE... I'LL FIND YOU...
YOU'LL *PAY* FOR THIS!

WHY WOULD ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS DIRECTORS IN THE WORLD WANT TO COME HERE?
THEY SAY STIFOTEL WAS A HUGE NATURE BUFF THIS WAS JUST HIS LAST KNOWN LOCATION A COUPLE DAYS BEFORE HE WAS ABDUCTED. THERE'S NO TELLING WHERE HIS ABDUCTORS ARE KEEPING HIM.
WE'VE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US.
YOU'VE GOT THAT RIGHT... WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.
WELL, IT'S GETTING LATE. I THINK WE SHOULD BEGIN WITH GETTING SOME ROOMS.
MOTEL 7
THAT LOOKS LIKE AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY. LET'S GO.

HEY, WHAT'S GOT YOU OUT THIS LATE?
THIRST
DO THEY HAVE A MOISTURE SPELL CONTAINMENT MACHINE AROUND HERE?
I THINK SO. DOWN ON THE FIRST FLOOR. I'M NOT REALLY SURE.
I'LL HAVE TO GO DOWN THERE AND CHECK IT OUT FOR MYSELF... BUT FIRST, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
HUH? I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DRINK.
NO, I MEAN WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT THIS LATE?
I COULDN'T SLEEP. I'M JUST TOO WORRIED ABOUT ALL THIS STUFF WITH KYLE STIFOTEL.
YEAH WE'VE GOT A LONG, TOUGH ROAD AHEAD OF US.
I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT HAVING A JOB TO GO BACK TO IF THIS DOESN'T WORK.

AMY.. I..
IT SURE IS GETTING COLD OUT HERE, ISN'T IT?
YEAH.. I SUPPOSE.
SO WHY DON'T WE GO IN MY ROOM? IT'S NICE AND WARM IN THERE
WELL-- I--
IN ALL THE YEARS WE WORKED TOGETHER, I NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT--
WELL.. START THINKING ABOUT IT NOW.

302
KLICK
302
302
302
302
I KNEW IT

SO...
SO...
SO...
YEAH...

SO...
SO...
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU GUYS, BUT MEAD AND A LEG OF LAMB DOES NOT SOUND LIKE A CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST TO ME.
SO... WHAT'D YOU GUYS DO LAST NIGHT?
HEH.
UM...
I WENT RIGHT TO SLEEP WHEN I GOT TO THE ROOM... FLYING ALWAYS WEARS ME OUT.
OH... SO THAT WAS *FLYING*?
C'MON, GUYS... WE'RE WASTING DAYLIGHT.

WHERE'D THE GUY AT THE FRONT DESK SAY THIS PLACE WAS?
YEAH.. WE'VE BEEN WALKING FOREVER.
IT SHOULD BE RIGHT AROUND THIS CORNER.
SEE, THERE IT IS.
THIS WAS THE EXACT LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF KYLE STIFOTEL. HE CAME HERE... RENTED SOME HORSES FOR HIS TRIP... AND LEFT
MAYBE HE TOLD SOMEONE THERE WHERE HE PLANNED TO GO.
Blathel Birglebee's
Beasts of Burden
Beasts of Burden
Beasts of Burden
WHAT?!
I WASN'T JUST GOING TO GET A HORSE!

THE CLERK AT THE RENTAL PLACE SAID THAT MISTER STIFOTEL WAS TALKING ABOUT HOW EXCITED HE WAS TO FINALLY BE ABLE TO SEE THE PURPLE ICE CAPS ON MOUNT TROGDOR.
YEAH, AND THE TRAIL TO MOUNT TROGDOR IS A PRETTY COMMONLY TRAVELED ONE THAT'S ABOUT A FOUR DAY TRIP. SO IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME HE WAS ABDUCTED SOMEWHERE ON THE WAY.
SO WE SHOULD JUST STICK TO THE TRAIL... AND KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR CLUES. THIS MAY NOT BE AS HARD AS WE THOUGHT.
"KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR CLUES?"
THIS IS NEVER GOING TO WORK.
OH, YE OF LITTLE FAITH.

SO IF YOU'RE SO SKEPTICAL THAT THIS WON'T WORK... WHY ARE WE HERE? WHY'D YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND?
WELL...
MY CAREER HAS BEEN STALLED FOR A LONG TIME NOW. IF YOU GUYS THINK THAT RESCUING THIS DIRECTOR WILL LEAD TO WORKING IN THE MOVIES INSTEAD OF TELEVISION... I THINK IT'S WORTH A TRY
I OWE YOU GUYS THAT MUCH.
WELL, ISN'T THAT SWEET
WHAT WAS THAT?

HALT, TRESSPASSERS!!
WHOA! WHOA!
THIS IS A PUBLIC TRAIL!
NOT ANYMORE!

CAN'T WE JUST TALK THIS OVER?
WE'RE NOT LOOKING FOR ANY TROUBLE.
WELL, WE ARE.
TOM! HEADS UP!!
THUNK
CLINK

JAMES! WHERE DID YOU GET THESE WEAPONS?
THE PROP ROOM AT THE STUDIO...
OH, GREAT...

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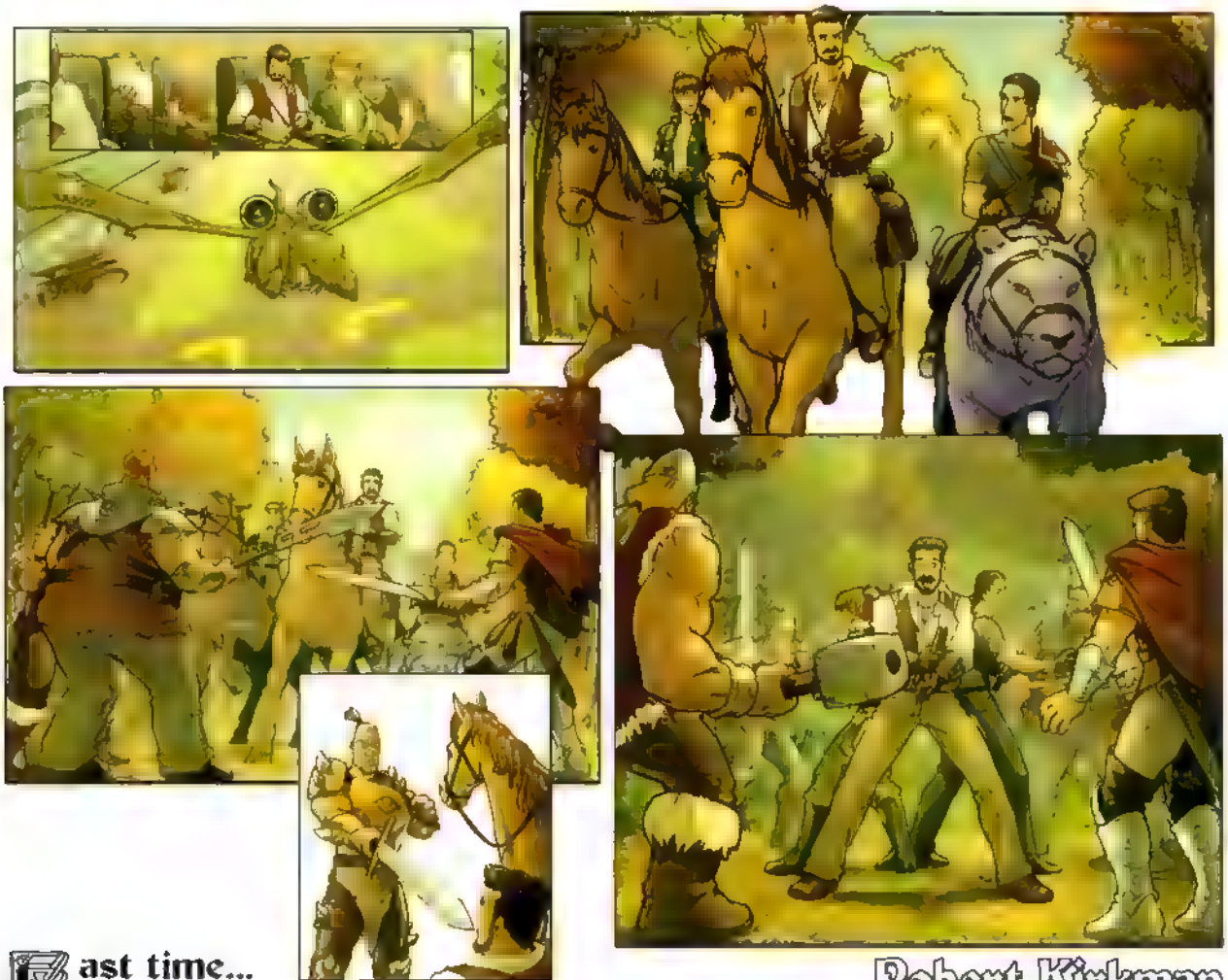

Last time... Our heroes' valiant adventure began. Thomas, James, and Amy set out with high hopes of rescuing the famed director, Kyle Stifotel... but they quickly learned that this rescue is a feat that will not come quite so easily. They find themselves at the end of an opposing sword... and while they wish a director would yell "cut!" so they could all go home... they're quite certain that isn't going to happen. Wish them luck!

Robert Kirkman
- story
Matt Tyree
- art
Andrew Crossley
- colors
Lithium Pro
- letters

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WELL?
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
WHY THE HELL ARE YOU ASKING ME?! YOU'RE THE ONE THAT GOT US INTO THIS!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU GOT OUR WEAPONS OUT OF THE STUDIO'S PROP ROOM!!
WELL... IF YOU WANT TO POINT FINGERS, I SUPPOSE--
WILL YOU BOTH JUST SHUT UP?!

SLASH
YAHH!
CLANGG
OOF!
THUNK
WOW

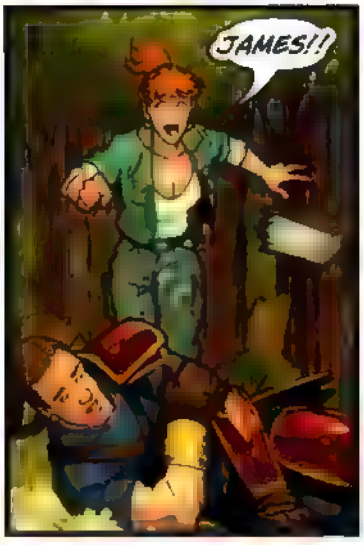
YOU WOULDN'T HIT A GIRL, WOULD YOU?
HIT? NO BUT CUTTING YOU IN HALF IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT MATTER
CLAANG
STEP AWAY FROM THE LADY!
CAREFUL, THOMAS, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE THAT THING
GREAT!
HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT!
SPLANG
I THINK I WOULD HAVE FIGURED IT OUT

HEY... I GAVE IT A SHOT
IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LOSERS LASTED THIS LONG
WONK

ARE WE DEAD YET?
OOH, THAT COULD WORK!
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA GETTING IN MY WAY? YOU *TRYING* TO GET ME KILLED?
WE ARE *SO* DEAD.
WAIT A MINUTE, GUYS... I THINK I'VE GOT SOMETHING HERE
YOU'D BETTER MAKE IT FAST
Shutta de trios tu shabba und shirak...
RAAHH!!
GRRRR

"kaba!"
FA-FAAASH

OH CRAP
THUD


JAMES!!

OH MY GOD!
OH MY GOD!
OH MY GOD!
OH MY GOD!
OH MY GOD!

CALM DOWN, AMY. IT'S NOTHING—
—IT'S NOTHING TO LOSE YOUR SHIRT OVER.
VERY FUNNY

I THINK I'VE STOPPED THE BLEEDING.
AMY... WHERE'S THOMAS?
...

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!
UMM, WHERE'D THEY GO?!
IF YOU LET ME GO... I'M SURE I CAN FIND THEM FOR YOU.
YEAH.. LET'S SEND HIM AFTER THEM!
THAT'S WHAT HE WANTS, YOU IDIOT!
I THINK I'LL KILL HIM INSTEAD
STOP!!
DON'T TOUCH HIM.
HE'S MINE.. WE'RE GOING TO TAKE HIM BACK TO THE BASE SO I CAN TAKE MY TIME WITH HIM.

C'MON, MISSY... YOU'RE FREE TO GO.
ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY NINE
C'MON, LADY. I HAVEN'T GOT ALL DAY
UP YOURS, PIG.
WHAT THEY SAY IS TRUE... THIS PLACE REALLY CHANGES YOU.
WOW. HOW LONG WAS SHE IN HERE?
ONE NIGHT
:GULP:

I CAN'T FIND THOMAS ANYWHERE.
I'VE GOT NO IDEA HOW FAR AWAY I TELEPORTED US. I MEAN.. THE MOUNTAIN RANGE LOOKS THE SAME, BUT WE COULD BE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF IT
I DON'T THINK THE BLEEDING HAS STOPPED.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN TO LOOK FOR HIM. I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO GET BACK TO THE TOWN FROM HERE.
YOU'RE STILL BLEEDING?!
LET ME TAKE A LOOK.

OOOH. IT'S NOT VERY DEEP BUT IT'S BLEEDING PRETTY GOOD
HOLD ON A SECOND, LET ME GET MY BOOK.
TAKE YOUR TIME.
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING IN HERE THAT CAN HELP YOUR CUT
OH, HERE'S SOMETHING.
Drabus bon hactoid su chakka sin..

"tobaash!!
FA-FAAASH
AHH!!
AHHH!!
I MUST HAVE SAID A WORD WRONG, HOLD ON!
HURRY
Drabus bon hactoid su chakka sin"
"tokaash!!
FA-FAAASH
CRAP LET ME TRY IT AGAIN.
NO WAIT THIS IS FINE!
CAN YOU DO THE OTHER ONE NOW?

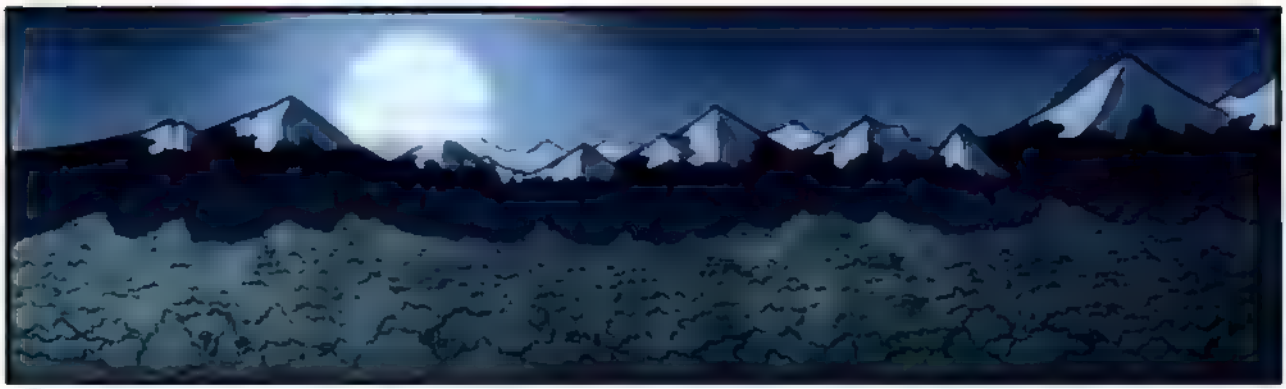
KEEP WALKING OR WE'LL RUN YA THROUGH!
"RUN YA THROUGH?" ARE YOU GUYS PIRATES ALL OF A SUDDEN?
NO.
...
JUST KEEP WALKING!!
WHATEVER YOU SAY..
HERE GOES NOTHING.
OOF!
THOK
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!!

OOH!
KRAK
OW!
WHAP
AKK!
THUNK
UFF!
THUDD

DON'T JUST STAND THERE! GET HIM!!
HE'S RIGHT DOWN HERE.
WHAT'S HE DOING?
HE'S JUST LYING THERE.
HE BETTER NOT BE DEAD!
I'VE GOT BIG PLANS FOR HIM.
GO GET SOME MORE OF THEIR ROPE. ONE OF US IS GOING TO HAVE TO GO DOWN THERE AND BRING HIM BACK UP
YES, BOSS

=HUUNGH=
GIVE HIM HERE.
=GRUNT=
HER
I KNOW WHAT YOU'LL BE ASKING FOR COME CHRISTMAS TIME.
OOF!
THUMP
THROW HIM OVER A HORSE...
WE'RE NOT FAR FROM THE BASE NOW.
LET'S GO.

OPEN UP, DAMMIT! I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
THUD!
THUD!
THUD!
YOU THINK THIS LITTLE PROTEST OF YOURS IS GOING TO SAVE YOUR FRIENDS' JOBS?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK.
WELL, YOU'RE WRONG!" IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL YOU'RE JUST GOING TO COST YOURSELF YOUR OWN JOB!
WAIT A MINUTE...
WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE?



WOW, YOU PUT THIS FIRE TOGETHER IN RECORD TIME.
I WAS IN SQUIRE SCOUTS. IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN ME LESS TIME TO GATHER THE FIREWOOD IF THE ARM HADN'T REVERTED BACK TO NORMAL.

SORRY ABOUT THAT... I GUESS IT WAS JUST A SIDE EFFECT OF THE HEALING PROCESS.
IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED... I'M A LITTLE NEW AT THIS

OH, BELIEVE ME! I NOTICED.
...
UGH! LOOK AT US! WE'RE OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE ALL BECAUSE THOMAS TALKED US INTO THIS CRAP!
WE'RE NEVER GOING TO BE ABLE TO SAVE THAT DIRECTOR NOW!

DAMMIT, JAMES! THIS WAS ALL *YOUR* IDEA! DON'T TRY TO PASS BLAME OVER TO THOMAS!

I-- YOU'RE RIGHT... THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.. AND NOW THOMAS IS--
NO!
DON'T-- DON'T SAY IT... JUST DON'T SAY IT.. HE'S FINE... HE HAS TO BE...
NO, YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M SURE HE'S OKAY
THERE, THERE.. EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY
OH, JAMES..

SO...
YOU WANT TO DO IT?
NO.

WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
WE RAN INTO SOME TROUBLE. BUT WE TOOK CARE OF IT, SO DON'T WORRY. YOUR LITTLE MEETING TOMORROW WILL GO ON UNINTERRUPTED.
WHO IS THAT?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO ALLOW ANYONE *NEAR* THIS PLACE... NOT TO BRING AN OUTSIDER *HERE!*

RELAX. I GOT A LITTLE PAYBACK IN MIND FOR THIS ONE. HE WON'T BE *HERE* LONG.
YOU FOOLS!! DO YOU KNOW WHO THAT IS??!!
DON'T HURT HIM ANY FURTHER. TEND TO HIS WOUNDS AND THROW HIM IN THE CELL!
YES... *BOSS.*
HE COULD BE AS VALUABLE AS THE OTHER ONE.

OOF!
THUMP
KYLE STIFOTEL?!
IN THE FLESH.

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Tales of the Realm

Our good friend, Joe Amaro, made these awesome sculpts of our very own Tales of the Realm action figures! These figures were never actually meant for production. Rather, these one-of-a-kind statues were created for the 2003 con season. However, the gang at MV Creations liked them too much to set out on a table to possibly get broken. So, except for the progress photographs in issue one of Tales of the Realm, this is the only place fans can see them. Now they rest safely on Matt Tyree's desk.

James Meyehr

Amy Nolan

Thomas Danbec

Chapter Four

GAH!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, MISTER?
...
WE DIDN'T--?
HAH!
YOU WISH!!

I'M GOING TO LOOK IN HERE TO SEE IF THERE'S ANY SPELLS THAT MIGHT HELP US FIND THOMAS. YOU CLEAN UP THE CAMP SO WE'LL BE READY TO GO.
YES, SIR!
SHOOT! THE ONLY LOCATION SPELLS I CAN FIND REQUIRE SOME SORT OF PART OF THE PERSON.
LIKE A STRAND OF HAIR
WILL A FINGERNAIL CLIPPING DO?

PLEASE TELL ME YOU DON'T HAVE ONE OF THOMAS' FINGERNAIL CLIPPINGS.
DON'T FREAK OUT... I'VE BEEN COLLECTING THEM FOR YEARS. REMEMBER WHEN THOMAS CLIPPED HIS NAILS ON THE DRAGON OVER HERE?
YOU'D BE AMAZED WHAT THESE PUPPIES GO FOR ON EBAY
IF YOU EVER HAVE ANY OLD PANTIES YOU WANT TO GET RID OF LET ME--
NEVER MIND... SHUTTING UP NOW
I'M GOING TO GATHER UP THE NECESSARY HERBS AND ROOTS TO BREW WITH THESE
WHAT DO YOU NEED ME TO DO?
I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO CATCH A BIRD

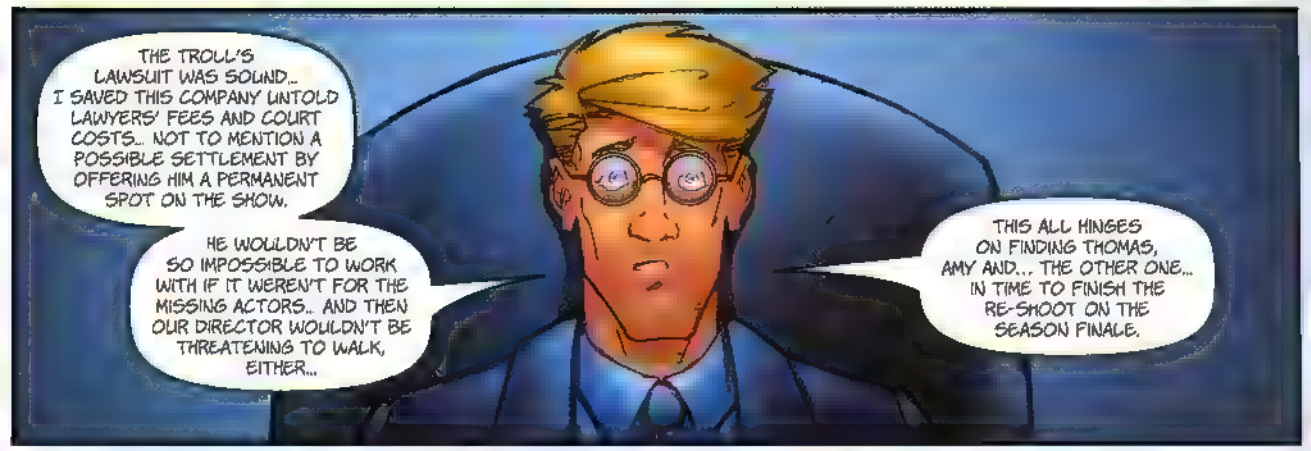
MAN IT'S REALLY GREAT TO GET TO MEET YOU.
I'M A HUGE FAN... YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR SOME OF THE BEST MOVIES OF OUR TIME!
OH PLEASE... THAT CRAP?! I DON'T KNOW WHAT PEOPLE SEE IN MY WORK.
SAY... YOU LOOK FAMILIAR... WHERE HAVE I SEEN YOU BEFORE?
WELL IT JUST SO HAPPENS I'M THE LEAD ACTOR ON THE TOP RANKED TELEVISION SHOW IN THE WORLD, TALES OF THE R--
TELEVISION?! NEVER WATCH THE CRAP.
YOU EVER BEEN A CATERER?
NO.
NEED A PICTURE FOR THE BOSS.
FWASH!

I GOT WHAT YOU ASKED, BOSS. IT'S A GOOD ONE TOO... HE LOOKS ALL BEAT UP AND STUFF
WELL DONE, NOW HAND IT OVER.
SEND FOR THAEDUS
THAEDUS, MAKE SURE THIS MAKES IT TO THE TALES OF THE REALM PRODUCTION OFFICE.
IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT IT ARRIVES THERE BY TOMORROW.
AS YOU WISH, MY MASTER
IF THIS WORKS OUT.. WE WON'T HAVE TO SQUEEZE TOO MUCH OUT OF STIFOTEL'S PEOPLE...
AND MY PLANS WILL BE REALIZED WITH MUCH LESS HASSLE INVOLVED
I CAN'T BELIEVE STIFOTEL'S PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO NEGOTIATE A LOWER RANSOM

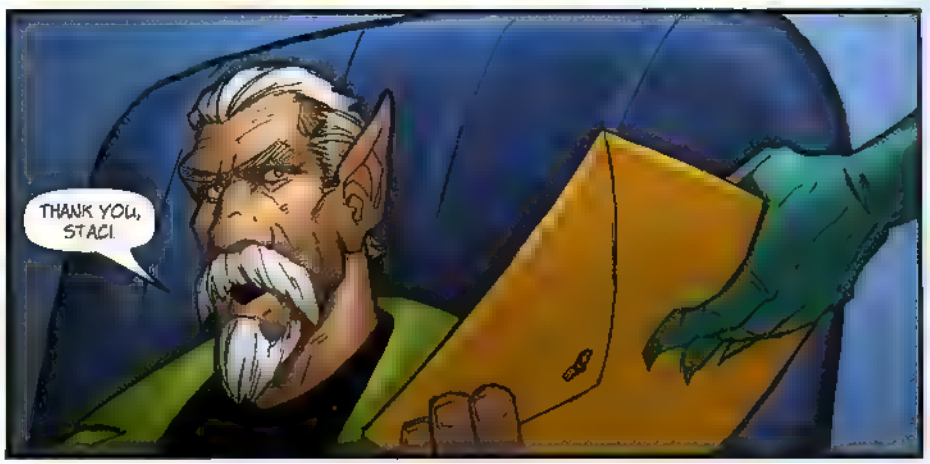
SKREE
YULP!
THUMP

STAR MAPS! GET YOUR STAR MAPS RIGHT HERE!
star maps
MAPS TO THE HOMES OF ALL YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE STARS!! RIGHT HERE! ONLY FIVE DOLLARS!!
I'LL TAKE ONE OF THOSE.
HERE YOU GO... THAT'LL BE FIVE DOLLARS.
HEY, FAT ASS! I SAID FIVE DOLLARS!!
K-KEEP IT

YOU'VE GOT MISSING ACTORS... A NEW CHARACTER THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DEAL WITH... A DIRECTOR THAT'S READY TO WALK OFF THE SHOW AND A TOTAL OF TWO WEEKS TO FINISH A SEASON FINALE THAT WAS COMPLETE BEFORE YOU CAVED INTO SAID IMPOSSIBLE ACTOR'S BOGUS LAWSUIT
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY SHOW?


THE TROLL'S LAWSUIT WAS SOUND.. I SAVED THIS COMPANY UNTOLD LAWYERS' FEES AND COURT COSTS... NOT TO MENTION A POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT BY OFFERING HIM A PERMANENT SPOT ON THE SHOW.
HE WOULDN'T BE SO IMPOSSIBLE TO WORK WITH IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE MISSING ACTORS.. AND THEN OUR DIRECTOR WOULDN'T BE THREATENING TO WALK, EITHER...
THIS ALL HINGES ON FINDING THOMAS, AMY AND... THE OTHER ONE... IN TIME TO FINISH THE RE-SHOOT ON THE SEASON FINALE.

SORRY TO INTERRUPT, SIR BUT THIS URGENT DELIVERY JUST ARRIVED


THANK YOU, STACI.

WELL... WE'VE FOUND THOMAS, AT LEAST... TURNS OUT HE'S BEING HELD FOR RANSOM. WE'VE GOT NO TIME TO INVOLVE AUTHORITIES... I'LL TRY TO GET THE MONEY READY TODAY
THIS EPISODE NEEDS TO BE FILMED RIGHT AWAY...

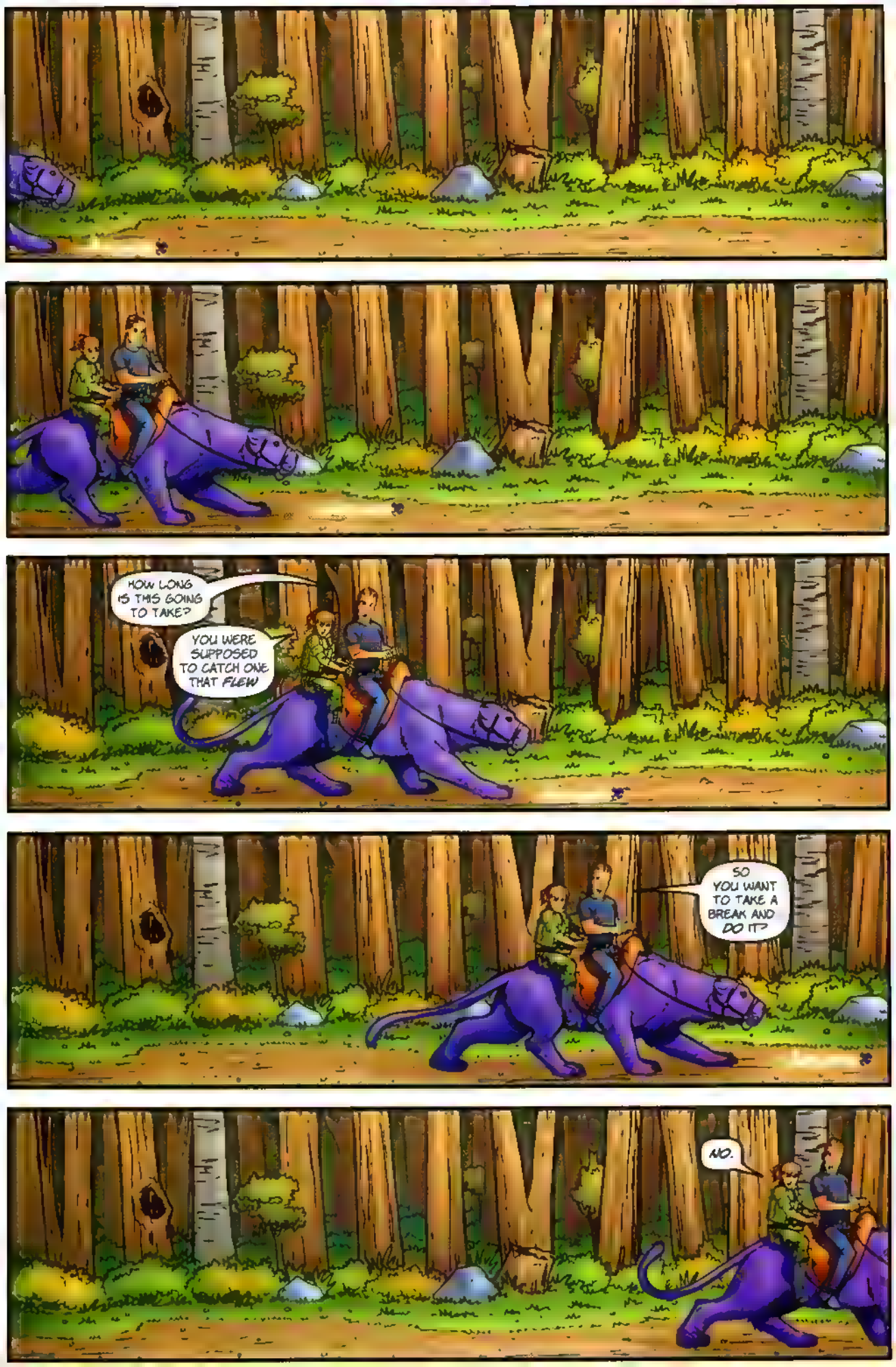
WHERE'S HE BEING HELD?

YOU'LL FIND OUT ON THE WAY

YOU'RE NOT DONE YET?
JUST ABOUT DID YOU GET THE BIRD?
YEP.
WHAT IS THAT?
THE BIRD!
Shooba talobba locate cinto dubba Thomas Danbec
NOW THE BIRD WILL LEAD US TO THOMAS.
-SIGH-
JUST GIVE IT TO ME..
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? IT'S LEAVING CAMP! WE'VE GOT TO FOLLOW IT!
WE'LL CATCH UP.. TOMORROW

HEY... DON'T YOU WORK FOR KYLE STIFOTEL?
YEAH... SO?
I WORK ON *TALES OF THE REALM*... THE NUMBER ONE SHOW IN THE WORLD... I'D LOVE TO WORK WITH KYLE...
TELEVISION? YEAH... GOOD LUCK.
RIGHT...

GENTLEMEN... IF YOU'LL FOLLOW ME.


HOW LONG IS THIS GOING TO TAKE?
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO CATCH ONE THAT FLEW
SO YOU WANT TO TAKE A BREAK AND DO IT?
NO.

YOU CAN TAKE OFF THEIR BLINDFOLDS NOW.
THE MONEY. NOW I TRUST YOU BOTH ARE AWARE OF WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH YOU IF THE FULL AMOUNT ISN'T THERE?
I'M NOT GIVING YOU ANYTHING UNTIL I SEE THOMAS.
YEAH... AND I NEED TO SEE KYLE FIRST
VERY WELL.
SNAP
THERE... NOW HAND OVER THE MONEY.

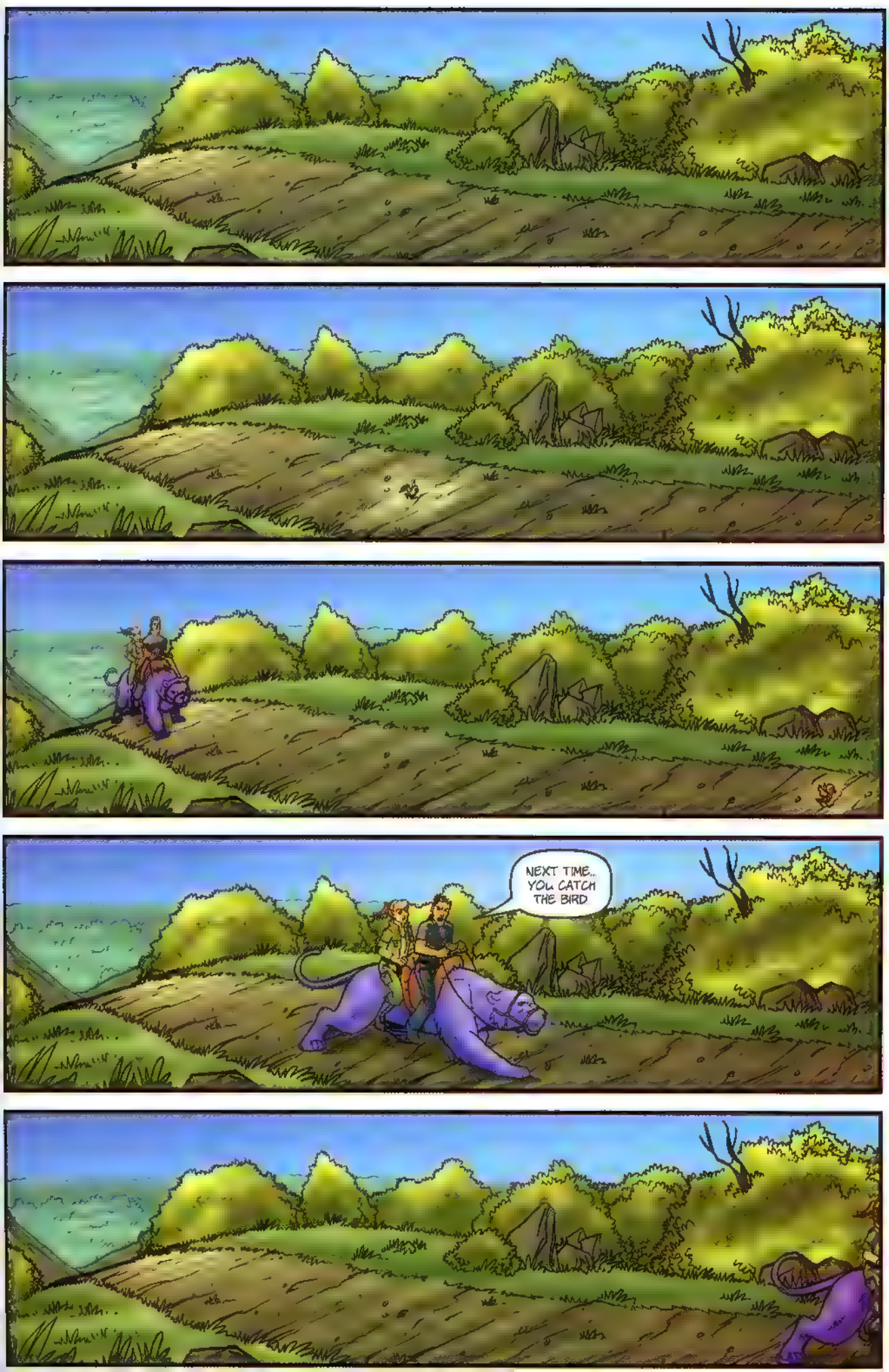
THANK YOU.
NOW BE GONE.
WASH
WASH
HUH?
ALL RIGHT!
WHERE'D THEY GO?
I MERELY TRANSPORTED THEM BACK TO WHERE THEY WERE YESTERDAY AT THIS TIME.

WHY'D YOU DO THAT? THEY GAVE YOU THE MONEY... WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST GIVE THEM THESE GUYS?
WOULD YOU RATHER BE THE GOTHRA'S FIRST MEAL?
OH..
I SEE OUR MONEY ARRIVED JUST IN TIME... TAKE THE PRISONERS BACK TO THEIR CELL.
THE MONEY, AS PROMISED NOW... THE IDOL, PLEASE.
WE HAVE CHANGED OUR MINDS AND WILL BE KEEPING THE IDOL.
SOMETHING YOU DESIRE SO MUCH MUST BE WORTH HOLDING ONTO.

FAAASH
FOOLS... NOW YOU WILL KNOW THE MEANING OF PAIN!
CLINK
KRAK
KRESH

FWUMP
THIS IS WORKING OUT RATHER WELL.

HOW IN THE HELL COULD YOU SCREW THAT UP?!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY... ONE MINUTE I WAS THERE HANDING HIM THE MONEY... THE NEXT... I WAS HERE HE MUST HAVE BEEN A SORCERER OR SOMETHING.
YOU REALLY SCREWED US ON THIS ONE. YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHO IT WAS OR EVEN WHERE YOU WERE. NOT ONLY HAVE YOU SCREWED UP ANY CHANCE WE HAD OF GETTING OUR LEAD ACTOR BACK FOR THE RE-SHOOT, BUT YOU ALSO COST US ALL THAT RANSOM MONEY...
I'M SORRY, SIR.
SORRY?! SORRY DOESN'T CUT IT! YOU HAVE SINGLE HANDEDLY RUINED THE TOP RANKED SHOW IN THE WORLD
YOU'RE FIRED!!


NEXT TIME..
YOu CATCH
THE BIRD

THE CEREMONY IS AT HAND.
FOR TOO LONG THE DARK LORD GOTHRA HAS BEEN IMPRISONED IN THIS MOUNTAIN. FOR CENTURIES NOW HIS EMPIRE OF CHAOS HAS BEEN LOST TO THIS WORLD
NO MORE.
WHEN WE FREE HIM TODAY WE WILL BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF A NEW WORLD ORDER... WE WILL CONTROL THE DESTINY OF THE WORLD THROUGH THE GOTHRA.
BEHOLD! THE EYE OF GOTHRA IS OURS! WE HAVE BUT TO ACTIVATE IT TO SET THE WHEELS IN MOTION!
NOW, ALL THAT IS LEFT IS FOR THIS CREATURE TO FIND THE ONE AMONG US PURE ENOUGH TO ACTIVATE THE EYE OF GOTHRA.

CURSES!
THE EYE OF GOTHRA CAN ONLY BE ACTIVATED BY THE SPILT BLOOD OF A VIRGIN. THIS CREATURE IS ONLY TO LAND ON A VIRGIN... I ASSUMED THERE WOULD BE AT LEAST ONE AMONG YOU...
WHAT THE--?!

CRACK
HUH?
WHAT LUCK!

Chapter Five

HARDWARE
HUH.. THAT'S A LOT OF KEROSENE THERE, LADY YOU MUST HAVE ONE OF THEM MAGICAL SPACE HEATERS.. OR SOMETHING. I SAW THEM IN A CATALOGUE ONCE.
SALE!
YEAH, THOSE THINGS ARE NEAT AS HECK FROM WHAT I READ. YOU ONLY GOTTA FEED THE FAERIES ONCE A YEAR AND THE KEROSENE DOES MOST OF THE WORK.
SALE!
OF COURSE... YOU MUST HAVE A LOT OF THEM TO NEED THIS MUCH KEROSENE... YOU MUST HAVE A MIGHTY BIG PLACE. YOU RICH OR SOMETHING?
STAR HOMES
Find the homes of all your favorite stars

I'M TELLING YOU.. YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG GUY.. I'M A SEX MACHINE!
SILENCE!!

I HAVE WAITED AGES FOR THIS MOMENT! THE NEW REIGN OF GOTHRA IS WITHIN OUR GRASP!
BURIED DEEP WITHIN THIS MOUNTAIN IS THE SOLL OF GOTHRA, SLEEPING, IMPRISONED IN THIS FORTRESS OF ROCK AND EARTH. WE HAVE BUT TO SPILL THE BLOOD OF THIS INNOCENT TO SET HIM FREE!!
JEEZ, GET ON WITH IT ALREADY.
AHH!! OOH!!
OH! IT STINGS!

FRAGGA WOOOSH

GOTHRA

ARE YOU THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY RETURN?
YES.. IT WAS I.
YOU HAVE DONE WELL. LONG HAVE I REMAINED IN THAT PRISON. YOU HAVE EARNED YOUR REWARD.. WHAT IS IT YOU WISH OF ME?

I AM NOT OF THIS WORLD, GREAT ONE. I WAS SENT HERE BY ACCIDENT WHILE STUDYING THE DARK ARTS. I WISH TO RETURN TO MY HOME DIMENSION. I HAVE READ YOU POSSESS THE ABILITY TO DO THIS FOR ME.
HOME DIMENSION? WHAT THE HELL IS THAT CRAP?!
YEAH! I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO COMMAND THE GOTHRA AND RULE THE WORLD!!
NONE SHALL COMMAND GOTHRA!
KRAKOOOM
YOUR REQUEST IS REASONABLE. YOU WILL NOT WANT TO BE ON THIS WORLD ONCE I MAKE IT MY OWN.
I AM WEAKENED FROM MY IMPRISONMENT I WILL GRANT YOUR REQUEST AS SOON AS I AM POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DO SO.
NOW... WHERE IS YOUR OFFERING?
RIGHT HERE, GOTHRA.

OKAY... SAME TIME TOMORROW.
I'LL BE HERE.

THANKS FOR COMING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT
YES, SIR
I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE OF OUR CURRENT SITUATION.
WE'VE GOT AN UNFINISHED SEASON FINALE. ONE STAR BEING HELD FOR RANSOM GOD KNOWS WHERE. TWO OTHER STARS ALSO MISSING AND POSSIBLY WITH THE OTHER... AND NO WAY OUT OF IT
WE DO HAVE A COMPLETED VERSION OF THE FINALE, BUT WE CAN'T AIR IT BECAUSE OF THE DEAL OUR NOW FIRED PRODUCER MADE WITH A TROLL ACTOR FEATURED IN THE EPISODE. A DEAL HE MADE TO PREVENT A LAWSUIT THAT WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN HIM GETTING FIRED ANYWAY
Y'KNOW... WITH OUR PRODUCER GONE... WHO SAYS WE HAVE TO HONOR THE DEALS HE MADE?
WHO INDEED.

YES, THEY'LL DO NICELY
I'M GLAD YOU APPROVE.
OH, I DO... THIS IS A FINE BUNCH YOU HAVE BROUGHT BEFORE ME AFTER SO MANY YEARS LOCKED AWAY FROM PHYSICAL DELIGHTS, I WILL SAVOR THE COMING MOMENTS FOR MONTHS TO COME.
IT HAS BEEN FAR TOO LONG SINCE I TASTED THE FLESH OF MAN.
FAR TOO LONG, INDEED

PLEASE!! JAMES!! YOU'VE GOT TO SNAP OUT OF IT!! DON'T DO THIS!! PLEASE!!
YOU ARE WASTING YOUR BREATH, I ASSURE YOU. YOUR JAMES CAN SEE AND HEAR ALL THAT IS GOING ON... BUT HE CAN DO LITTLE MORE THAN WITNESS MY ACTIONS.
THERE IS NOTHING YOU OR HE CAN DO TO STOP ME
NOW...
. TO DECIDE WHO GETS THE HONOR OF BEING DEVOURED BY ME FIRST
OH, YES
I THINK IT WILL BE THE FEMALE.

LIKE HELL!!
KRACK
NOBODY'S EATING ANYBODY TODAY!
KRAK
JAMES! IF YOU'RE IN THERE.. LISTEN UP! AMY, I'M SORRY I DRUG YOU TWO INTO THIS.. I DON'T KNOW HOW I EVER THOUGHT THIS WOULD WORK.

THE ONLY REASON I AGREED TO DO GO ON THIS STUPID QUEST WAS THAT... THEY WERE GOING TO FIRE YOU!
OUR PRODUCER TOLD ME THE DAY BEFORE WE LEFT' THEY WERE GOING TO ASK YOU BACK TO RE-SHOOT DEATH SCENES TO TACK INTO OUR SEASON FINALE.
THE TROLL HAD THREATENED TO SUE THEM... SO THEY HAD THE WRITERS PUT HIM IN THE SHOW, AND THEY WERE GOING TO REPLACE YOU WITH HIM.
I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO TELL--
KRAK
I THOUGHT IF WE DID THIS... IF WE RESCUED STIFOTEL... IT WOULDN'T MATTER THAT THEY WERE GOING TO FIRE YOU.
BUT NOW... I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT OUT OF THIS ALIVE!
I'M SORRY
KRAK
YOU WERE A FOOL TO ATTACK ME.
BEING EATEN WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH LESS PAINFUL THAN THIS.

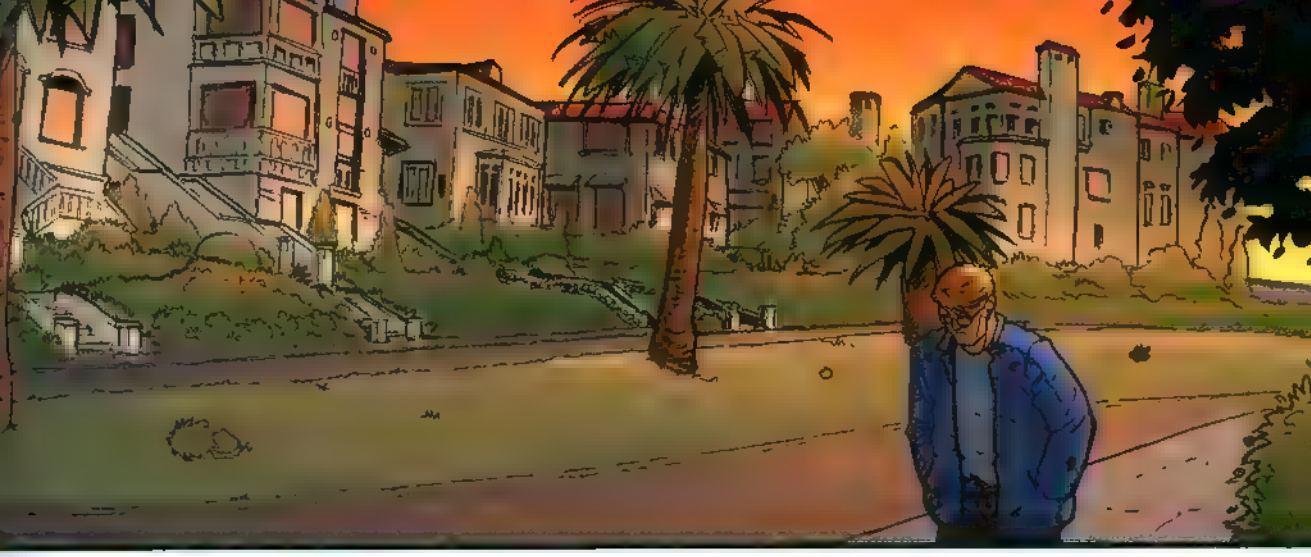
NO!!! IT CAN'T BE!!!
NO!! THE HOST'S LOVE FOR THIS ONE IS TOO GREAT! I CANNOT HARM HIM!

WELL, IF YOU CAN'T KILL HIM, I WILL!
ROAARR
AUGH!!
CHOMP
LOVE...
TOO...
INTENSE...
ENGULFING ME!
I CAN'T TAKE IT!!!

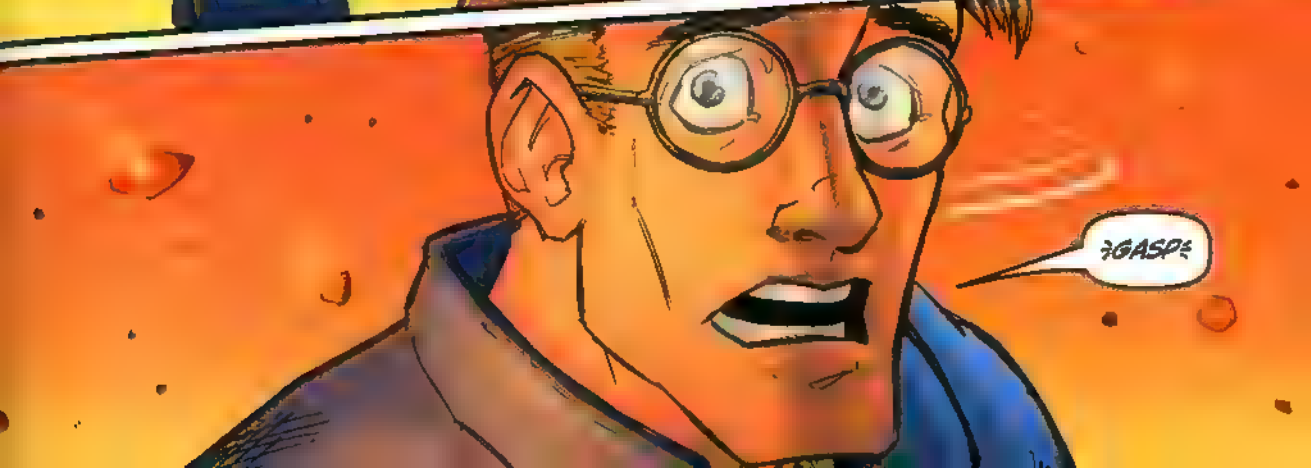
NOOOOO!
BAWOOOSH
AHHH!!
AAHHHHHH!

THOOM
UFF
THAT WAS WEIRD.
"INTENSE LOVE?"
IT'S COMPLETELY PLATONIC!!

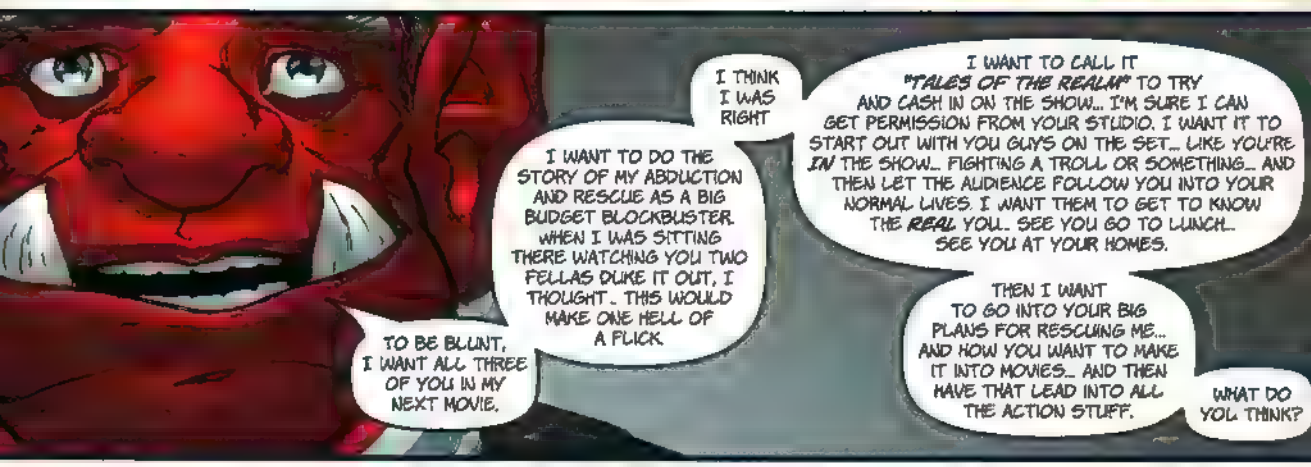
A FEW WEEKS LATER.
CAFE
WELL, THE STUDIO DECIDED NOT TO BUCKLE TO THE TROLL'S DEMANDS FOR THE SHOW. THE WHOLE MESS WAS BLAMED ON MITCH, OUR PRODUCER. UNFORTUNATELY, IT GOT HIM FIRED IN THE PROCESS. BAD NEWS FOR HIM.
GOOD NEWS IS *YOU* WON'T BE FIRED.
THEY ACTUALLY GAVE THE TROLL HIS OWN SHOW TO KEEP HIM HAPPY. *"TROLL EYE FOR THE HUMAN GUY."* IT'S SOME KIND OF FASHION MAKEOVER THING
SO WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE MAKING MOVIES ANYTIME SOON, BUT AT LEAST WE'RE NOT UNEMPLOYED
I'LL DRINK TO THAT.
MR KYLE STIFOTEL WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH YOU RIGHT AWAY

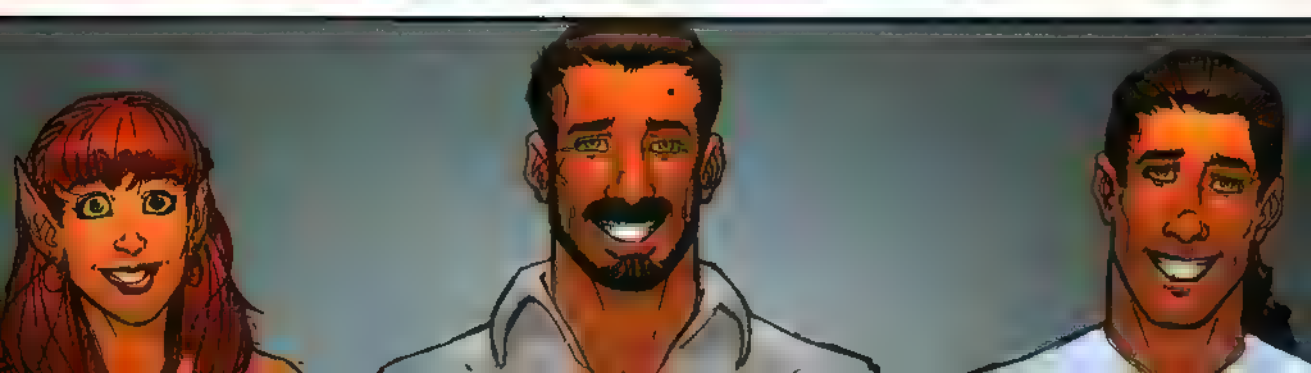


HEY!!
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, LOSER!


?GASP?

I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD SEE ME ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.
TAKE A SEAT, ALL OF YOU.


TO BE BLUNT, I WANT ALL THREE OF YOU IN MY NEXT MOVIE.
I WANT TO DO THE STORY OF MY ABDUCTION AND RESCUE AS A BIG BUDGET BLOCKBUSTER. WHEN I WAS SITTING THERE WATCHING YOU TWO FELLAS DUKE IT OUT, I THOUGHT.. THIS WOULD MAKE ONE HELL OF A FLICK.
I THINK I WAS RIGHT
I WANT TO CALL IT "TALES OF THE REALM" TO TRY AND CASH IN ON THE SHOW... I'M SURE I CAN GET PERMISSION FROM YOUR STUDIO. I WANT IT TO START OUT WITH YOU GUYS ON THE SET... LIKE YOU'RE IN THE SHOW... FIGHTING A TROLL OR SOMETHING... AND THEN LET THE AUDIENCE FOLLOW YOU INTO YOUR NORMAL LIVES. I WANT THEM TO GET TO KNOW THE REAL YOU.. SEE YOU GO TO LUNCH... SEE YOU AT YOUR HOMES.
THEN I WANT TO GO INTO YOUR BIG PLANS FOR RESCUING ME... AND HOW YOU WANT TO MAKE IT INTO MOVIES... AND THEN HAVE THAT LEAD INTO ALL THE ACTION STUFF.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?



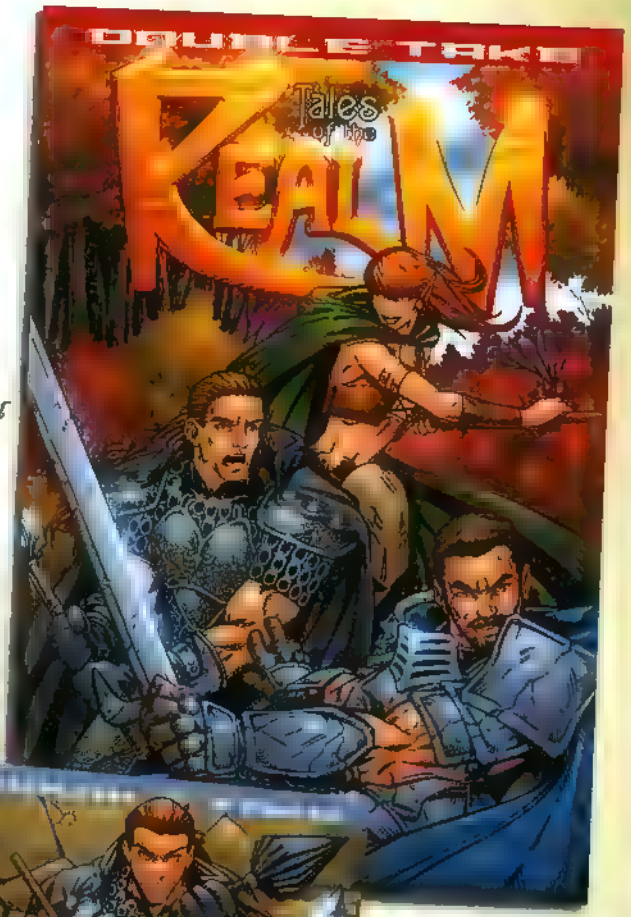
GREAT! GLAD TO HAVE YOU ALL ON BOARD. MY PEOPLE WILL CALL YOUR PEOPLE. I'D LIKE TO START SHOOTING NEXT MONTH.
SEE YOU THEN.
WELL... MY IDEA *WORKED!* ISN'T ANYONE GOING TO SAY SOMETHING?!
I THINK IT'S THE STUPIDEST IDEA FOR A MOVIE EVER. IT MIGHT WORK AS A COMIC BOOK... BUT NOT A MOVIE.
BUT HEY... IT'S A MOVIE, AIN'T IT? WE'RE GOING TO BE IN A *MOVIE!*
GREAT, LET'S GO OVER TO JAMES' PLACE AND CELEBRATE.
WHY MY PLACE?
YOU'VE GOT THE NICEST HOUSE.
OH, *THAT* PLACE? I SOLD THAT TO MITCH A FEW MONTHS BACK. I'M ALL ABOUT THE CONDO LIVING NOW.

THAT YOUR HOUSE? DUDE. THAT SUCKS.
:SOB:

Tales of the Realm

Double Take

Double Take issue 2, published by Robert Kirkman's Funk-O-Tron, was the first appearance of Tales of the Realm. The 14-page story, which served as a preview or prelude to the series, was written and pencilled by Matt Tyree, inked by Serge LaPointe and colored by Val Staples. Double Take issue 2 hit comic stands in June of 2002 featuring 3 covers by Matt Tyree, Mike Wieringo and Randy Green. It sold a stellar 1500 copies! They were definitely doing it for the love and not the money! The following pages hold the entire issue, uncut. So, sit back and be thankful all of Tales of the Realm doesn't look like that!



Fun Fact:

The logo has changed since Double Take debuted, because so many people thought it said "Real M." Perhaps they thought Matt was just very vain.

IT SHOULD BE HERE...
TWENTY PACES PAST THE OLD OAK TREE.
YEAH, YEAH.
IF THAT OLD FOSSIL LIED TO ME--
WHOOA-UUUUAAH!
OOF!
UH!
OOOH!
WHUMP!

=GROAN=
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
OLD MAN WASN'T LYING AFTER ALL.
SHHHHK
SNAP!
WHU---?

HAIIISSSS!
OKAY, THIS ISN'T GOOD
EASY FELLAS, NO NEED TO BE ANGRY!
OKAY, BUT IF YOU WANT IT BACK, YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE IT!
UFF!
WOOSH!
OOF!
HEY--UH!
ERRR!
RAAAAHH!
THUD

EEEERRKK!!
SHURIK!
HEHHH!
THWACK!
FLUMP!

ALRIGHT, CHUMPS WHO'S NEXT?
HEHHHH!
HISSSSS!
YOU JUST CAN'T KEEP YOURSELF OUTTA TROUBLE, CAN YOU, LISARA?
SHUT UP, DRACH!

NOW, YOU JUST STAY BEHIND ME! I'LL HANDLE THEM!
YEAH, RIGHT.
SPARE ME THE MACHO CRAP! I CAN TAKE CARE OF THEM MYSELF
EEP!
ACK!
YEAH, I FIGURED YOU'D RUN AWAY WHEN MY BACK WASN'T TURNED!
COME ON BACK AND FIGHT, COWARDS!

CLAP
CLAP
CL
CL
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
VERY GOOD, MY FRIENDS.
VERY GOOD INDEED.
LISTEN, FLYNN! I DIDN'T SEE YOU DOING ANYTHING TO HELP!
WHY WOULD I HELP?
OH YEAH, I FORGOT. YOU ONLY CARE ABOUT YOURSELF!
NO, I JUST DON'T CARE ABOUT YOU.
YOU REALLY FIRE ME UP! YOU KNOW THAT?!
REALLY? I DIDN'T KNOW I TURNED YOU ON SO MUCH!
THAT'S IT! COME 'ERE YOU LITTLE--!
EASY, EASY.

AND YOU! I WOULDA BEEN FINE! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TAKE CARE OF THOSE LITTLE IMPS.
BUT NOOO, BIG HERO DRACH HAS TO COME IN AND SAVE THE DAY! SO TYPICAL!
OH, REALLY?
LET'S GO FLYNN
UM... WAIT, GUYS! WHERE ARE YOU HEADED? MAYBE I COULD JOIN YOU!
YOU KNOW, UNTIL WE GET OUT OF THE FOREST
WE'RE GOING TO RELLIEM, IF YOU HAVE TO KNOW.
DOES MISS HIGH AND MIGHTY NEED AN ESCORT?

HA! OF COURSE NOT!
I'M QUITE CAPABLE OF HANDLING MYSELF. I JUST FIGURED SINCE WE WERE ALL TRAVELING IN THE SAME DIRECTION WE MIGHT AS WELL TRAVEL TOGETHER.
DRACH, DOES SHE HAVE TO--?
FLYNN, I THINK LISARA WAS JUST ABOUT TO APOLOGIZE. AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
UM, YEAH. I AM KINDA SORRY FOR WHAT I SAID, I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR HELPING ME BACK THERE.
EVEN THOUGH WE'LL NEVER KNOW FOR SURE IF I REALLY NEEDED IT
OKAY, I GUESS THAT WILL DO. YOU MAY COME ALONG.
AH, FOR THE LOVE OF...

RELLIEM...
ONE OF THE MANY TOWNS IN THE FOREST EAST OF DANBEC
WE'D BETTER FIND A PLACE TO STAY FOR THE NIGHT.
COINS PLEASE, SIR
MORE COINS!
clink

MOVE ASIDE OLD MAN
AH, DRACH. I THINK YOU BETTER HAVE A LOOK.
RELLIEM IS ALSO A FAVORITE ROOST FOR MANY OF THE MISCREANTS EAST OF DANBEC.
I TRIED BEING NICE, NOW WE'LL JUST TAKE WHAT WE WANT.
WHATTA YA SAY, DRACH? WANNA GIVE THEM MORE.
LET THEM TAKE IT... IF THEY CAN.

WHOOOOOAAA!
GET... THEM.
KRAK!
WHACK!
PING!
THANK YA, BOYS!
"LET THEM TAKE IT IF THEY CAN!?"
WHAT WAS THAT?
EH, HEH HEH HEH--
SHUT UP.

FORTUNATELY, THE TOWNSFOLK OF RELLIEM ARE MORE HOSPITABLE.
WELL DONE TAKING CARE OF THOSE SCOUNDRELS!
THEY'VE BEEN DRIVING AWAY MY BUSINESS FOR WEEKS!
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, MY FRIENDS?
WE'LL HAVE A ROOM, BUT FIRST A ROUND OF--
OOF!
UM, MAKE THAT TWO ROOMS AND A ROUND OF DRINKS
HEY, DRACH, THANKS FOR THE HELP TODAY.
I DO APPRECIATE IT.
HEH, IT WAS NOTHING. DRACH AND I FIGHT BORODITES MORE THAN YOU PLUCK YOUR EYEBROWS!
=EH HEM=
WE WERE JUST PASSING THROUGH, LISARA. DON'T MENTION IT.
PASSING THROUGH? RIIIGHT. WELL, WHAT HAVE YOU GUYS BEEN UP TO ALL THIS TIME? I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A FEW MONTHS!

THE USUAL. DEFENDING THE HELPLESS, RESCUING DAMSELS IN DISTRESS, TYPICAL NOMADIC HERO STUFF. FOR A LITTLE COIN THAT IS
SO THE HERO-FOR-HIRE SCHEME IS WORKING OUT, HUH?
HEY! I DO WHAT I HAVE TO DO TO GET BY!
WELL, I WOULDN'T SAY IT'S AS LUCRATIVE AS YOUR, UM, LINE OF WORK. BUT, OUR BELLIES ARE FULL AND I SLEEP WELL AT NIGHT.
I HAD THINGS UNDER CONTROL.
YEAH, AND THAT COULD GET YOU KILLED.
THOSE BORODITES WEREN'T TOO HAPPY WITH YOU!
BESIDES, HOW DID I KNOW THAT THOSE FREAKS WERE SO ATTACHED TO THIS LITTLE THING?
WHAT THE--?! AFTER ALL THAT YOU STILL GOT AWAY WITH IT!?
ONLY YOU, LISARA! HA HA HA!
THAT'S ME.
SO, WHERE ARE WE HEADED TO FROM HERE?
WE?
IT'S NOT CERTAIN NOW WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR THEM.
ONE THING IS FOR SURE, IT'S BOUND TO BE QUITE AN ADVENTURE LIFE ALWAYS IS, IN THE
REALM

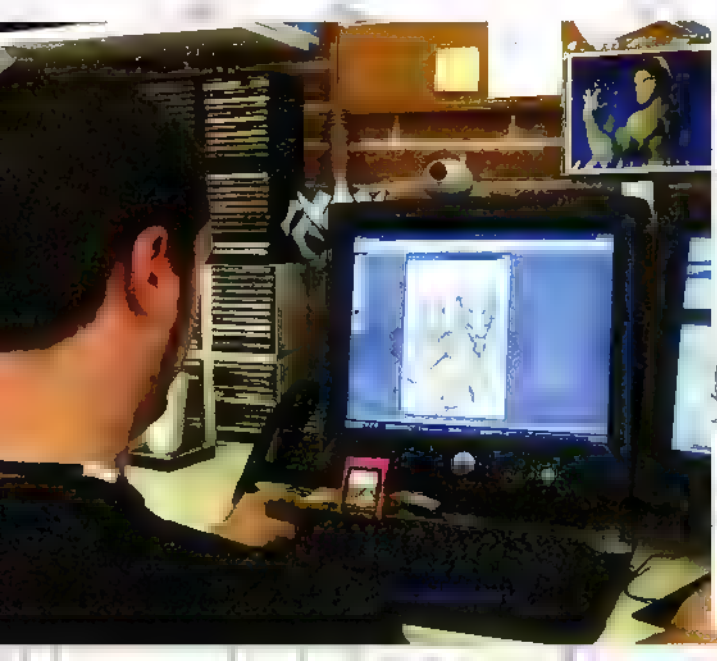
Matt Tyree leads you through the making of the tales of the REALM finale cover.

Step 1: The Thumbnails

First thing to do is to get your idea down on paper! I start by drawing roughly 2"x3" thumbnails. In this case I actually did several thumbnails which I later combined With a collage cover it was possible to do this since the only two elements that really related to one another were the characters James and Thomas Typically sketching at a small scale is faster and makes it easier to get perspective and other elements laid in at least close to correct.

Step 2: Combining Digitally

Once I get the thumbnails the way I want them, I scan them in and arrange the different elements in Photoshop. Combining and arranging the elements in Photoshop allows me complete freedom to alter size, relation and proportion of any aspect of the thumbnails. Some might say I'm "cheating." I say, "My momma didn't raise no fool!" While I have the image in Photoshop I blow it up to 8.5"x11" and arrange it to fit on a template I created. Then I print it back out for the next step.



Step 3: Refining Sketch

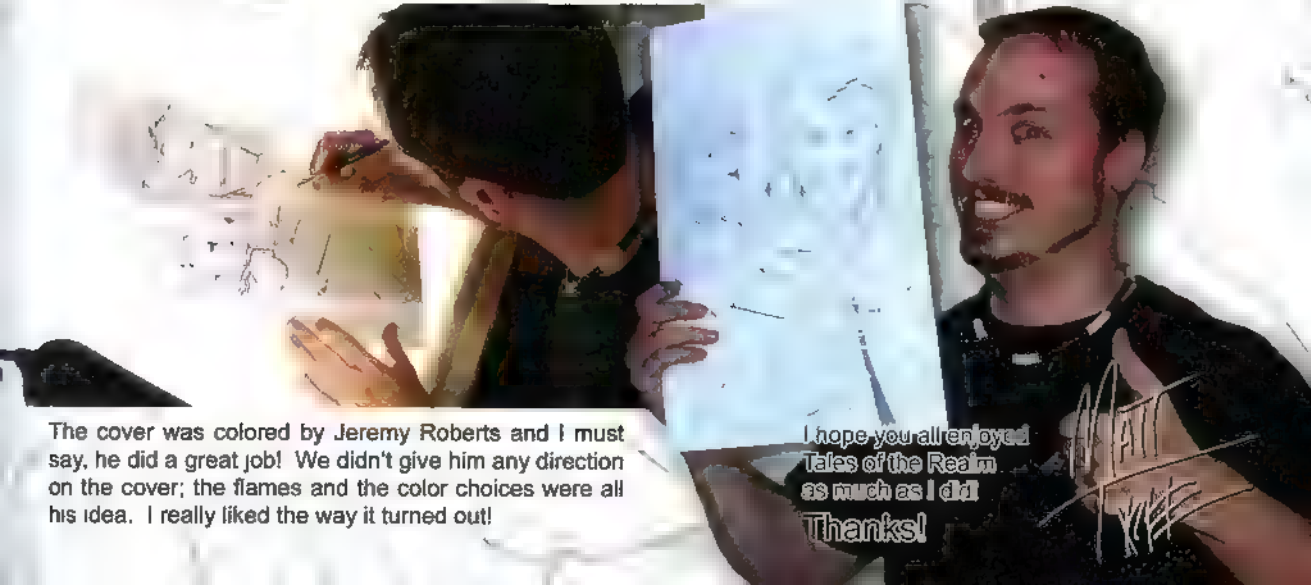
Once I've printed the 8.5"x11" guide sketch, I trace it, refining and reworking aspects of the piece as I go. Once I am finished here, I have a much cleaner and easier-to-follow version to go by for the final.

Step 4: Final Alterations

When the refined sketch is complete, I basically repeat Step 2 and scan it back into the computer. Once there, I can tweak it once again digitally. When I am satisfied, I size it up to art board dimensions and print it out.

Step 5: The Finished Drawing

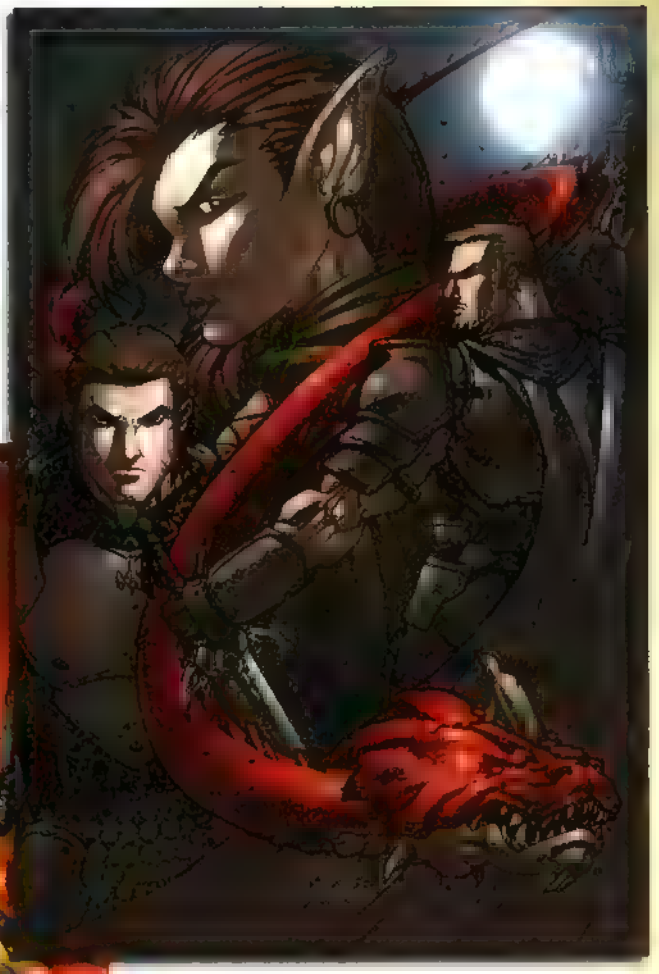
At this point, I just use the lightbox again to trace the sketch I have done. Tracing allows me to get a very clean final. Clean pencil drawings are good for many reasons. For one, inkers have a much easier time understanding your linework. In our case, we rarely use inkers, so it is VERY important to keep the pencils tight so it looks nice and sharp when the cover is done and printed! All these steps may seem like a lot of work, but I find it a must in order to get the cleanest, most polished final possible. If I were to go straight to the final board, I am sure I would be erasing, altering and revising ten times as much. Which destroys the art board and makes the final piece quite ugly!



The cover was colored by Jeremy Roberts and I must say, he did a great job! We didn't give him any direction on the cover; the flames and the color choices were all his idea. I really liked the way it turned out!

Tales of the Realm

These pinups were done for the preview issue of Tales of the Realm in Double Take issue 2.



Drawn by Jonboy Meyers and colored by Jason Keith.

Drawn by Mike O'Hare and colored by Jason Keith.

Double Take Pinups

Tales of the Realm

This was to be the cover to a special convention preview of Tales of the Realm. The convention special was to hold six teaser pages from issue one of the book. Unfortunately, it was never printed. So, not to be wasted, here is the cover in all its glory!

Convention Special Cover

Tales of the Realm

Tales of the Realm Character Design Sketches

The following pages hold the very first drawings ever done for the characters of The Realm. These characters were originally done just for fun in one of Matt Tyree's sketchbooks. Val Staples and Matt went back and forth over emails while Val was still attending Virginia Tech, designing the look and feel of each character. Val's knowledge from playing fantasy games when he was younger aided in armor designs. Matt drew virtual mannequins for Val to draw clothes and armor onto. Afterwards, Matt would take the designs and turn them into the sketches you see here.

Fun Fact:

Never thinking they would use the characters for anything, Matt and Val loosely based all of the characters on themselves and their friends! Most notably, Drach was based on Matt while Flynn was based on Val.

Drach Tyranas

Drach is your typical brave knight type, always there for a friend or damsel in distress. But, often his pursuit of heroism gets him into trouble. Drach's armor was simplified quite a bit once Matt knew he had to draw it over and over again!

Tales of the Realm

Flynn Valamar

Flynn was designed to be smart and resourceful. He counts more on his cunning than his strength or fighting ability.

Sketch Book

Tales of the Realm

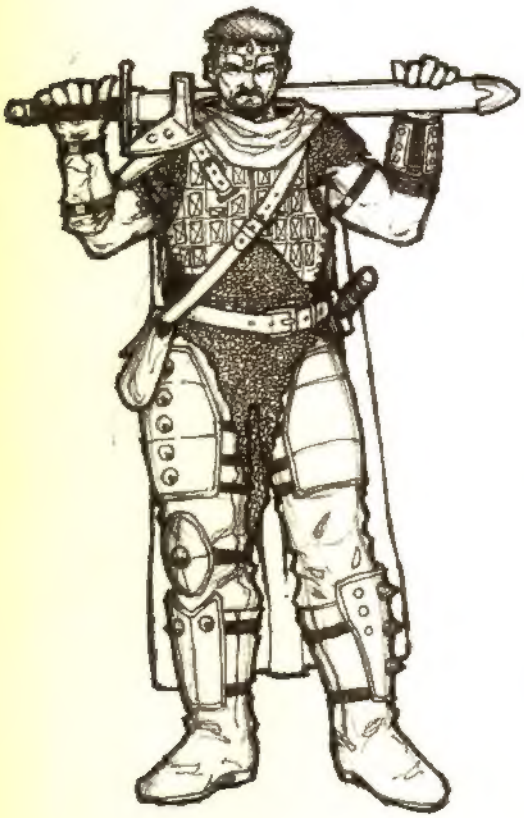
Linsara Defose

This is the original design sketch for Linsara. Typical thief wardrobe that was later "sexy'd up" for the comic by showing more of her midriff

Sketch Book

Tales of the Realm

This and the pages that follow feature characters that never appeared in Tales of the Realm.



Kohl Daven

Kohl was originally to be a fighter. But, since Drack and Flynn were already fitting that bill, we opted to change him to a ranger.

Sketch Book

Tales of the Realm

Tawnia Levonaire
Seductive Asian temptress.
Friend or foe?

Ahn Trang Wu
Asian warrior skilled in many forms of hand-to-hand combat.

Sketch Book

Tales of the Realm

Vess Andon
Friendly, yet annoying, bard and story-teller.

Domas Ratzlin
Deceptive evil wizard.

Sketch Book

Tales of the Realm

Borodite

This species of lizard men appeared in the Double Take issue of Tales of the Realm. This character also has a cameo in Tales of the Realm issue one as "Biff."

Sketch Book